

## Bumpy day on Wall Street

Stocks fell and oil prices eased back as markets remain anxious. **NEWS, PAGE 8**

## Big East women's awards

Muhl named top defensive player; Williams, Nelson-Ododa on first team. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

## UConn athletics

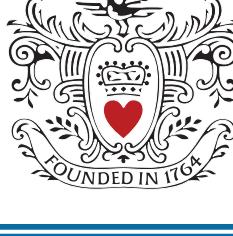
Proof of vaccination, negative COVID test no longer needed at games. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

## Clear and cold



Mostly sunny and chilly; high of 36. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

# Hartford Courant



VOLUME CLXXXVI

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FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022

## Purdue Pharma agrees to pay \$6B

Connecticut will receive about \$95M from opioid settlement, to go toward treatment, prevention

By Seamus McAvoy

Hartford Courant

Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family will pay \$6 billion in a nationwide settlement for the OxyContin maker's role in the opioid epidemic, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong announced Thursday.

The deal will still force Stamford-based Purdue's dissolution or sale by 2024, and will ban the Sacklers from involvement in the opioid business both in the United States and abroad, Tong said.

Purdue must also make public

previously withheld documents, and the Sackler family is required to allow institutions such as buildings or scholarships to remove the family name.

The \$6 billion, to be paid to the states over 18 years, is 40% more than a previous settlement agreement rejected on multiple grounds by Tong and other attorneys general, who argued that it didn't go far enough. Connecticut will receive about \$95 million to be used for opioid treatment and prevention.

"That is a historic sum, but there's not enough money in the

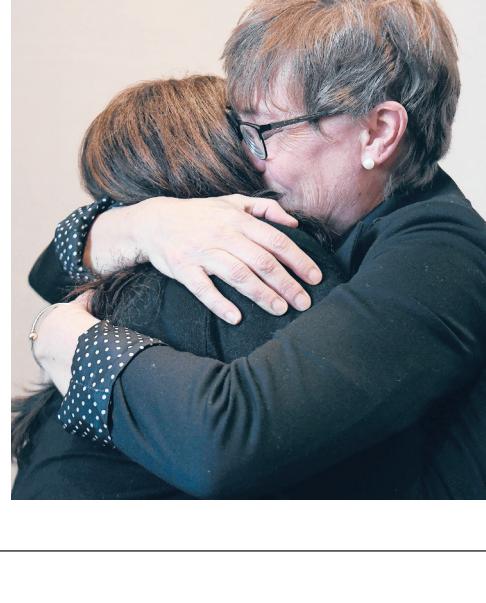
world to care for all the people who need it," Tong said, speaking from his State Office Building office in Hartford. "And there's not enough justice in the world to make it right. There just isn't. And we have to acknowledge that."

Tong said he hopes the settlement, subject to approval of Judge Robert Drain in bankruptcy court, prompts the Sacklers to issue a "fresh apology" to victims for Purdue's role in the opioid crisis.

"Some of [the victims' families] have lost so much that can never be recovered. And their suffering continues," Tong said.

In a statement, spokespersons for the Sacklers said the family

*Turn to Settlement, Page 3*



Liz Fitzgerald, of Southington, and Paige Niver, of Manchester, embrace at the end of a news conference at Connecticut Attorney General William Tong's office on Thursday in Hartford. Fitzgerald lost two sons to opioids and Niver's daughter became addicted to opioids after getting prescribed OxyContin at 14 years old.

JESSICA HILL/AP

**"We hear him promise to value our immigrant communities, to value our people. And yet, we have seen him do exactly the opposite."**

Teresa Quintana, 47, of Manchester, about President Biden after his State of the Union address Tuesday

## WAR IN UKRAINE

## Russia shells nuclear plant

Sides agree to send aid to some areas, allow evacuations

By Jim Heintz, Yuras Karmanau and Mstyslav Chernov  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces shelled Europe's largest nuclear plant early Friday in the battle for control of a crucial energy-producing city, and the power station was on fire, a plant spokesman said.

Plant spokesman Andriy Tuz told Ukrainian television that shells were falling on the Zaporizhzhia plant and had set fire to one of the facility's six reactors. That reactor is under renovation and not operating, but there is nuclear fuel inside, he said.

Firefighters cannot get near the fire because they are being shot at, Tuz said.

A government official said that elevated levels of radiation were detected near the site of the plant. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The fighting at Enerhodar, a city on the Dnieper River that is the site of the biggest nuclear

*Turn to Ukraine, Page 3*

## MORE COVERAGE

■ The U.N. refugee agency said Thursday that 1 million people had fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion, the swiftest exodus of refugees this century.

■ U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says she supports banning Russian oil imports to the U.S.

**World & Nation, Page 3**



Participants in an immigration rally demonstrate outside the Ribicoff Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Hartford. The rally was part of nearly 20 other actions taking place across the country as part of the #CommunitiesNotCages National Day of Action on Thursday, following President Biden's State of the Union address Tuesday. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

## 'Down with deportation'

Hartford rally calls for closure of ICE detention centers, renewed effort by White House to deliver comprehensive immigration reform

By Eliza Fawcett

Hartford Courant

Crowding the plaza of the Abraham A. Ribicoff Federal Building in Hartford on Thursday, members of Connecticut's immigrant rights community demanded the closure of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers and a renewed effort by the White House to deliver comprehensive immigration reform.

During his State of the Union address Tuesday, President Joe Biden called for an overhaul of the immigration system, including by providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers — undocumented immigrants who entered the country as minors — as well as by securing the U.S.-Mexico border against drug smuggling and human trafficking. To many at the Hartford rally, it had been a disappointing and infuriating message.

"We hear his promises to reduce deten-

tion and deportation, we hear him promise to create a 'fair and humane' immigration system. We hear him promise to value our immigrant communities, to value our people. And yet, we have seen him do exactly the opposite," Teresa Quintana, 47, of Manchester, a member of the organization Uniting for a Safe Inclusive Community, told the crowd of more than 50 people.

Quintana urged the White House to

*Turn to Rally, Page 3*

## State legislators clash over tax changes in election year

Cuts for middle class, hikes for rich among debated proposals

By Christopher Keating

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Connecticut lawmakers debated Thursday whether to hike taxes on the rich and how much to reduce taxes on the middle class during an election year.

The clash pits liberal Democrats and some unions against Repub-

licans, moderates and Gov. Ned Lamont, who has pledged repeatedly to avoid tax increases while Connecticut has a budget surplus. The surpluses are projected at \$1.5 billion in the current year and more than \$1 billion in the next fiscal year that starts on July 1.

Union representatives pushed strongly for more taxes on the rich during a public hearing by the tax-writing finance committee. John McNamara, a New Britain Democrat who represents the

*Turn to Taxes, Page 2*

## Daylight shooting is Hartford's 8th homicide of the year

A 33-year-old man was fatally shot in broad daylight in Hartford on Wednesday afternoon, police said. It was the city's eighth homicide of the year. Police say they don't know the motive for the deadly shooting. The police department's Major Crimes and Crime Scene divisions are investigating.

**Connecticut, Page 1**

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**RINGS END**

New Homes by Santini Homes Inc. and Lennar Corporation

## FROM PAGE ONE

### Taxes

from Page 1

community colleges' union, spoke strongly in favor of the proposed annual mansion tax on homes with a market value of \$1.8 million and an assessed value of \$1.2 million.

"This will barely make a dent in the wallets of folks living in multi-million-dollar homes," McNamara told the finance committee. "There's going to be a lot of tax and tax-cut demagoguery and grandstanding in 2022. It's already on television. Let's keep the distortions and fear mongering out of the discussion" of the proposed mansion tax.

But the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, an influential lobbying group that represents cities and towns, is opposing the idea.

"The current property tax system, while regressive and onerous, is the sole source of local revenue, and efforts should be focused on reducing local property taxes, not adding to them," said M. Randall Collins, a CCM lobbyist. "Once the state opens the door to collecting revenue via the property tax, what would prohibit the proposed 2 mill tax from going to 3 mills or higher and lowering the threshold on which it is applied?"

In similar fashion, the 110-member Council of Small Towns, which represents communities with fewer than 35,000 residents, also opposes the mansion tax.

Rob Baril, president of the District 1199 health care workers union, said the state has a "historic opportunity" to provide relief for the working poor because of the growing surpluses and a rainy day fund that could reach more than \$5 billion later this year if fiscal trends continue. Baril said low-wage workers have fallen behind over the past 15 years and have been suffering recently with rising inflation.

"People should not have to be working two, three and four jobs just to survive," Baril said.

The legislature, he said, must keep in mind the sharp geographical differences across the state in deciding how to spread the tax burden.

"We've got Greenwich and Glastonbury and Simsbury, and life is about as good as it could be for people that live in those areas — and I'm happy for them," Baril said.



Connecticut lawmakers are debating whether to impose a new, statewide property tax on all mansions with a market value of more than \$1.8 million. This 1975 file photo shows one of the most famous mansions in Greenwich. Built in 1918 and known as Dunnellen Hall, the mansion on famed Round Hill Road was purchased by real estate barons Harry and Leona Helmsley in 1983 and later sold in 2010 after their deaths for \$35 million. AP

"But the children in Norwich, New Haven, Hartford, and Meriden deserve those same life opportunities ... I am so glad that our governor raised the minimum wage to \$15 an hour [starting in June 2023], but we all know that nobody can survive on \$31,000 a year."

Rep. Hilda Santiago, a Meriden Democrat, agreed with Baril that many working-class employees are struggling.

"In order to live in Connecticut, you have to basically be making \$27 an hour," Santiago said.

During a lengthy hearing that lasted more than six hours, the committee discussed 11 bills Thursday with 68 witnesses signed up to testify. The committee is expected to make recommendations with votes in early April, and the full tax package will be part of the state budget that lawmakers intend to finalize before the session ends May 4.

Lamont is seeking \$336 million in tax cuts, including raising the property tax credit to a maximum of \$300 per tax return, up from the current \$200. He also wants to reduce car taxes in more than 100 cities and towns, and the state would reimburse the municipalities for the lost revenue at the local level.

### Restaurant taxes

Scott Dolch, the leader of

the state's restaurant association, spoke in favor of a Republican proposal to cut the sales tax immediately from 6.35% to 5.99 percent, along with temporarily eliminating the additional 1% surcharge on meals at restaurants and prepared meals at supermarkets for the remainder of the calendar year.

"This winter has been very hard for this industry — harder than people expected," Dolch said, adding that more than 600 restaurants have closed during the two-year pandemic.

Dolch said that 73% of Connecticut restaurants have increased menu prices during the past six months. At its peak, the industry employed 160,000 workers in Connecticut across thousands of restaurants.

Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford said the tax cut will help because the restaurant industry has not fully recovered from the pandemic.

Looney is the chief proponent of the mansion tax as "a reliable

revenue stream" that is "quite predictable" in its collection that would generate as much as \$86 million annually and would not be subject to the large swings from the volatility on Wall Street. He is also pushing for a 1% surcharge on capital gains for Connecticut's wealthiest residents who currently pay the highest income tax rate at 6.99%. The surcharge would generate \$131 million per year in an annual budget of \$24.2 billion, but Lamont has consistently opposed the surcharge as a disincentive that would prompt some rich residents to leave the state.

Rep. Joe Polletta, a Watertown Republican, told Looney that investors are already taking risks on Wall Street, and the proposed surcharge is "almost trying to penalize them" and "send this message to these folks that we don't want them here in Connecticut."

"I fear this would send the wrong message," Polletta said.

Anthony Switajewski, chairman of the state tax committee of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants, cautioned that it is now easier than ever for wealthy residents to flee the state for lower-tax states and remain connected through their computers.

"There are wealthy clients who just got up and left," Switajewski

said. "In this remote environment, people at hedge funds can go anywhere."

### Hotel taxes

At a time of budget surpluses, hotel owner Stephen Brightenti said in written testimony that the legislature should push for helping the industry that has been hit hard during the two-year coronavirus pandemic. He described the 15% hotel and short-term rental tax as "the most egregious high sales tax example" in the state.

"It has contributed to making Connecticut the worst lodging market in the country for development and profitability," said Brightenti, whose company operates the Avon Old Farms Hotel and three other inns. "Connecticut has lost hotel rooms over the past 20 years and a massive number over the past two years, and the lack of new high-quality hotel rooms dissuades new businesses and conventions and tourists from choosing Connecticut."

Connecticut's 15% hotel tax, he said, needs to be reduced to generate tourism and compete with the lower rates of 5.7% in Massachusetts, 6% in Pennsylvania, and 9% in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire.

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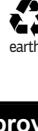
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## BREAKING NEWS

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### LOTTERY

Thursday, March 3

**PLAY3 DAY** O 3 1 WB: 9      **PLAY4 DAY** 2 4 1 0 WB: 9

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

### WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

**PLAY3 NIGHT** 6 4 6 WB: 0

**PLAY4 NIGHT** 6 2 3 2 WB: 6

**CASH 5** 3 13 15 21 22

**LUCKY FOR LIFE** 12 20 30 32 46 LB: 16

### POWERBALL

19 37 48 61 63 PB: 12 PP: 2

**Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot:** \$1.2 million

**Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot:** \$113 million

**Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot:** \$85 million

### Official Approved Notice from U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut

## Sexual Abuse and General Claims in The Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut Bankruptcy

The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, a/k/a the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich ("Diocese" or "Debtors") has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation* (Bankr. D. Conn.). This notice is a short summary.

### Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused, on or before July 15, 2021, and believes the Diocese may be responsible for the sexual abuse must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese. Sexual Abuse Claims include but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, touching, inappropriate contact, or sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not.

### When Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

**Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022.**

If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese and against Diocese Related Entities, including any right to compensation.

Your information will be kept private. For a list of names of clergy that have been identified in connection with sexual abuse claims, go to <https://www.norwichdiocese.org/Find/Accused-Clergy>. For more information on the bankruptcy case, go to <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn> or call 1-855-654-0902.

The Sexual Abuse Bar Date of March 15, 2022 is not subject to further extension, even if there is a change in the applicable statute of limitations. You should consider submitting a proof of claim even if you believe your claim may be subject to an affirmative defense such as a statute of limitations.

### When Should I File a General Bar Date Claim?

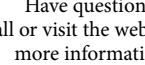
If you have a non-sexual abuse claim, you will need to file so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022. More information is available at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>.

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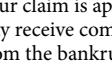
You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.



File a Proof of Claim.



Have questions? Call or visit the website for more information.



If your claim is approved, you may receive compensation from the bankruptcy.

<https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>

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## FROM PAGE ONE

### Settlement

from Page 1

was pleased to reach a settlement "that will allow very substantial additional resources to reach people and communities in need."

"While the families have acted lawfully in all respects, they sincerely regret that OxyContin, a prescription medicine that continues to help people suffering from chronic pain, unexpectedly became part of an opioid crisis that has brought grief and loss to far too many families and communities," the statement reads.

Tong was flanked by two mothers representing the thousands of Connecticut families who have been touched by the opioid epidemic, which he called "the worst public health crisis in America, COVID notwithstanding."

Liz Fitzgerald, of Southington, lost her son, Kyle, in March 2013 after a nine-year battle with addiction that began with a prescription to OxyContin. One of her other sons, Matthew, died on Labor Day in 2017 from a fentanyl overdose.

"Not any amount of money will ever be restitution for what they've done, the damage the Sacklers have caused," Fitzgerald said. "They just destroyed our lives."

Paige Niver, of Manchester, said her daughter, then 14, was prescribed "copious amounts of opioids" following a bicycle accident. As the drug's effectiveness wore off, Niver said doctors told her to keep giving her daughter more. Her daughter is now in recovery after "nine long years" battling with addiction.

"I think the parents knew something was wrong long before lots of people caught wind of it, and I never thought I would see any justice for it," Niver said.

"It's not the outcome that we would always expect, but hopefully these monies will be put to good use to help fight, and help others who are suffering," Fitzgerald said.

In December, a federal judge rejected a prior iteration of the settlement which would have released the Sacklers from facing future litigation in a process known as "nonconsensual, nondebtor release."

That rejected agreement touched on a complicated and unresolved question



Liz Fitzgerald, left, of Southington, and Paige Niver of Manchester, right, listen as Connecticut Attorney General William Tong speaks at a news conference Thursday in Hartford.

JESSICA HILL/AP

within bankruptcy law: whether owners of a company can use bankruptcy settlements to shield themselves from future lawsuits, even if they are not themselves bankrupt.

Purdue filed for bankruptcy in 2019. Tong, along with a coalition of seven other states and the District of Columbia, previously argued that this does not and should not also apply to the Sacklers. The family withdrew over \$10 billion from the company between 2008 and 2018, according to a court hearing.

"I still think that's wrong. Connecticut still thinks that's wrong," Tong said, later saying that he was still frustrated by some aspects of Thursday's agreement.

Connecticut and the other states and District of Columbia agreed to drop their complaint related to these releases. However, Connecticut and others retain the right to speak to the issue if it is raised to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The settlement announced Thursday does not release members of the Sackler family from future criminal liability.

Tong made his stance on future crim-

inal charges clear: "I think people who are responsible should go to jail," he said Thursday.

Asked who among the company and the Sackler family should be held criminally responsible, Tong said he would "leave that to the criminal authorities." Tong said he could not comment on whether there was an open criminal investigation into the Sacklers or Purdue.

State attorneys general reached a \$26 billion agreement with four U.S. companies last week. Tong's office has now participated in negotiations with opioid companies that have resulted in more than \$32 billion in settlement money, \$400 million of which will flow to Connecticut.

In the lobby outside Tong's office, after a round of emotional embraces, Fitzgerald joked that her boys always used to hate it when she would tell their stories to others. Now, that's changed. "You go, mom. You go, mom" she said.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

### State lawmakers weigh bill to make forging vaccination cards a crime

By Daniela Altomari

Hartford Courant

Lawmakers are considering legislation that would make it a crime to forge a paper or electronic COVID-19 vaccination card.

The Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing Friday on House Bill 5210, which would make it a misdemeanor to alter a vaccination record.

"There's obviously a public health risk if someone presents a card that says they're vaccinated and they're really not," said Sen. Gary Winfield, a Democrat from New Haven and co-chairman of the committee.

The state Department of Public Health has issued a warning about fake COVID-19 vaccine cards. "By misrepresenting yourself as vaccinated when entering schools, mass transit, workplaces or businesses, you put yourself and others around you at risk of contracting COVID-19," the health department states on its website.

The unauthorized use of an official government seal such as those issued by the state Department of Public Health or the Centers for Disease Control is a federal crime.

Fake COVID-19 vaccination cards have been advertised on social media and are readily available on e-commerce platforms. The FBI set up a tip line encouraging people to report fake vaccine cards.

At a rally at the state capitol last year, vaccination opponents left a box of cards outside that was seized by the state Capitol police.

Attorney General William Tong called the fake cards "a serious threat to public health" and said he was prepared to take legal action against those who manufacture and use such cards.

To report fake cards, call 800-HHS-TIPS.

**"We do not need militarized police. We do not need more violence in our communities.**

**We do not need more kidnappings in our communities. We do not need more mothers and fathers being taken from their children."**

— Javier Villatoro, 26, of New Haven, who came to the United States from Mexico

### Rally

from Page 1

close detention centers — particularly Plymouth County Correctional Facility in Massachusetts, a prison that holds ICE detainees, including those from Connecticut — end deportations, liberate ICE detainees and defund ICE.

"We are demanding action instead of empty promises," she said, earning a roar from the crowd.

Participants in the rally — who represented a number of advocacy groups affiliated with the Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance — waved signs that read "No fear no hate no ICE in our state," "Protect kids not borders," and "Asylum is a human right."

Javier Villatoro, 26, of New Haven, who came to the United States from Mexico, said that one of his relatives had been deported following a traffic accident and that many immigrants in America live in fear of deportation.

"We do not need militarized police," he shouted through a bullhorn. "We do not need more violence in our communities. We do not need more kidnappings in our communities. We do not need more mothers and fathers being taken from their children."

Leida Ramos, 36, of Hartford, who is affiliated with Make the Road CT, urged the U.S. Congress to provide equal services for undocumented residents and protect the nation's immigrant communities.

"We've been waiting too long for undocumented families living in the United States to live without fear," she said in Spanish.

Many who joined the rally said that they had been optimistic that Biden's election would usher in a new era of security and freedom for immigrant communities, particularly following the Trump administration's restrictive and repressive approach to immigration. But there has been little progress, they said.

"I don't see that there's much improvement," said Maureen Carpenter, 64, of Middletown, who attended the rally. "I was hopeful, but our government is in a bit of a standoff, one side against other, and we're not moving forward as much as we should be."

Ben Haldeman, a lawyer with New Haven



Javier Villatoro, 26, of New Haven speaks at an immigration rally outside the Ribicoff Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Hartford. The rally was part of nearly 20 other actions taking place across the country as part of the #CommunitiesNotCages National Day of Action on Thursday, following President Biden's State of the Union address Tuesday. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Legal Assistance, described poor conditions experienced by his clients at Plymouth County Correctional Facility and other detention centers, where detainees have reported physical and verbal abuse, inadequate medical care and insufficient access to legal resources.

"A year into the Biden presidency, immi-

gration detention is the same as it always was: racist, inhumane, unnecessary and fundamentally unfair to anyone fighting for the right to stay with their family and community," he said.

At the close of the rally, participants spread artificial flowers across two cardboard coffins and held a moment of remem-

brance for those who have died in detention centers.

Then they broke the silence.

"Up, up with liberation!" they chanted.

"Down, down with deportation!"

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elzfawcett@courant.com.

### Ukraine

from Page 1

power plant in Europe and accounts for 25% of the country's power generation, came as another round of talks between the two sides yielded a tentative agreement to set up safe corridors inside Ukraine to evacuate citizens and deliver humanitarian aid.

Elsewhere, Russian forces gained ground in their bid to cut off the country from the sea, as Ukrainian leaders called on citizens to rise up and wage guerrilla war against the invaders.

While the huge Russian armored column threatening Kyiv appeared bogged down outside the capital, Vladimir Putin's forces have brought their superior firepower to bear over the past few days, launching hundreds of missiles and artillery attacks on cities and other sites around the country and making significant gains in the south.

The mayor of Enerhodar said Ukrainian forces were battling Russian troops on the city's outskirts. Video showed flames and

black smoke rising above the city of more than 50,000, with people streaming past wrecked cars, just a day after the U.N. atomic watchdog agency expressed grave concern that the fighting could cause accidental damage to Ukraine's 15 nuclear reactors.

Mayor Dmytro Orlov and the Ukrainian state atomic energy company, Energoatom, reported that a Russian military column was heading toward the nuclear plant. Loud shots and rocket fire were heard late Thursday.

"Many young men in athletic clothes and armed with Kalashnikovs have come into the city. They are breaking down doors and trying to get into the apartments of local residents," the statement from Energoatom said.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal called on the West to close the skies over the country's nuclear plants as fighting intensified. "It is a question of the security of the whole world!" he said in a statement.

The U.S. and NATO allies have ruled out creating a no-fly zone since the move would pit Russian and Western military forces against each other.

The Russians announced the capture of the southern city of Kherson, a vital Black Sea port of 280,000, and local Ukrainian officials confirmed the takeover of the government headquarters there, making it the first major city to fall since the invasion began.

Heavy fighting continued on the outskirts of another strategic port, Mariupol, on the Azov Sea. The battles have knocked out the city's electricity, heat and water systems, as well as most phone service, officials said.

Food deliveries to the city were also cut.

Severing Ukraine's access to the Black and Azov seas would deal a crippling blow to its economy and allow Russia to build a land corridor to Crimea, seized by Moscow in 2014.

Overall, the outnumbered, outgunned Ukrainians have put up stiff resistance, staving off the swift victory that Russia appeared to have expected. But a senior U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Russia's seizure of the southern Crimea Peninsula gave it a logistical advantage in that part of the country, with shorter supply lines that smoothed the offensive there.

Ukrainian leaders called on people to defend their homeland by cutting down trees, erecting barricades in cities and attacking enemy columns from the rear.

In a video address to the nation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised his country's resistance.

The Russians "will have no peace here. They will have no food," he said. "They will have not one quiet moment."

The second round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations was held in neighboring Belarus. But the two sides appeared far apart going into the meeting, and Putin warned Ukraine that it must quickly accept the Kremlin's demand for its "demilitarization" and declare itself neutral, renouncing its bid to join NATO.

Putin told French President Emmanuel Macron he was determined to press on with his attack "until the end," according to Macron's office.

The two sides tentatively agreed to allow cease-fires in areas designated safe corridors, and that they would seek to work out the necessary details quickly.

# WORLD & NATION

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## WAR IN UKRAINE

## Terror of war haunts mass exodus

Desperate refugees make way to safety of neighbor nations

By Vanessa Gera  
and Renata Brito  
Associated Press

PRZEMYSŁ, Poland — It took Tatyana Pelykh and her 11-year-old son four days of travel and a wait of nearly 48 hours at the border crossing to escape their native Ukraine for Romania. There they found safety and a place to sleep, on the floor of a hotel conference room.

But Pelykh, a baker, says she still carries the terror of war inside her.

"I feel that my body is here, but my heart and my soul are in Okhtyrka and Kharkiv," the cities in Ukraine where her parents and best friend remain hunkered down in basements and garages under Russian attack.

In one week, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has produced a refugee exodus so large that it almost matches the number of people who sought refuge in Europe in a whole year during the 2015 migration crisis.

The U.N. refugee agency said Thursday that 1 million people had fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion, the swiftest exodus of refugees this century.

In 2015, hundreds of thousands of Syrians had fled their strife-torn country, which Russia also bombarded. Together with people escaping fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, they headed west, with thousands dying at sea trying to reach a continent



A refugee girl carries a sibling after arriving Thursday in the border town of Zahony, Hungary. CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY

where many didn't want them.

The arrival of about 1.3 million people sparked tensions among European partners, who squabbled over how many to accept, and bolstered far-right populists, some friendly to the Kremlin.

This time Europeans have united in extending a helping hand.

In one week, neighboring nations accepted more than 2% of Ukraine's population of 44 million, according to the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR. The operation has gone relatively smoothly thanks to an enormous mobilization of volunteers who have gone to the borders to help.

The European Union decided Thursday to grant people fleeing Ukraine temporary protection and residency permits.

EU Migration Commissioner Ylva Johansson said millions more were expected to move into the 27-nation bloc and would require shelter, schooling and work. The U.N. refugee agency predicted the war could produce up to 4 million refugees.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians and others who had been living in Ukraine continued to arrive in Polish, Hungarian, Slovakian, Romanian and Moldovan border towns.

Among them was Nadia Zuravka, a teenager who arrived Thursday in Przemysł with her mother. They came from Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is under bombardment.

"Everything of value to me" has faced some kind of destruction, she said.

Poland, a neighboring Slavic nation where many Ukrainians have settled in recent years for work, has received the largest single group of refugees so far, with many being taken in by relatives or friends. Many refugees continue moving west

to countries like Italy and Germany.

Volunteers and local authorities at border crossings meet exhausted people who have been traveling for days. They serve food or guide the newcomers to shelters; sometimes they take strangers into their own homes. Children arriving with cancer were evacuated to hospitals in Poland.

Pope Francis praised Poland's people for "opening your borders, your hearts, the doors of your homes."

People from across Europe are helping, too, even as they struggle with their own fears of what this dangerous new chapter holds for the continent.

Luc Dedecker drove more than 1,000 miles from his home in Belgium to Przemysł, stopping only to sleep in his car. He was prepared to take strangers back to his place.

"People need to be helped," he said.

He also described a profound fear of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

For Poles, Russia's attack on Ukraine evokes memories of their own country's double invasion in 1939 by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The German invasion triggered World War II and a five-year occupation that killed 6 million Poles, including 3 million Jews in the Holocaust.

Some Poles described helping Ukrainians now as part of a struggle by the democratic West to defend their own liberty, since sheltering Ukrainian women and children frees men to fight at home.

"We think that if Ukrainians fight and win, we will be safe. Now, we are not safe,"

said Bartosz Tomaszewski, a Pole in a yellow security vest that marked him as a volunteer at the train station in Przemysł.

Tomaszewski, 28, fears that if Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fails to stop Putin, Poland could be next, along with the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Pelykh, the Ukrainian refugee in the Romanian town of Siret, hopes people in Russia "will read about this and think about what is happening now (in Ukraine). It's not Photoshop, it's not fairy tales. It's real. It's real. It's in my town."

## Pelosi supports banning oil imports from Russia

Dems, GOP signal willingness to punish Putin's energy sector

By Lisa Mascaro  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid the escalating war in Ukraine, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday that she supports banning Russian oil imports to the U.S., a hefty nod that could strengthen President Joe Biden's hand as global allies seek to isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime.

Biden has been reluctant to curb Russian oil shipments to the U.S. or slap on energy sanctions in ways that would reduce supply as gas prices at the pump are already climbing for Americans.

But Pelosi's support gives fresh currency for an idea in Congress already backed by wide swaths of Republicans and an increasing number of Democrats.

The White House has said all tools remain on the table.

"I'm all for that," Pelosi said about ending Russian oil in the U.S. "Ban it."

Finding common ground to counter Russian aggression toward Ukraine through energy policy

would be a breakthrough for the divided Congress, which has shown remarkable resolve in unifying U.S. support for Ukrainians but has struggled over concrete steps that would help the Western-style democracy battle the Russian invasion.

A Russian oil ban could draw momentary alliance of lawmakers on the left and right — Democrats fighting climate change who want to lessen the U.S. reliance on fossil fuels; Republicans who want to boost U.S. energy production at home; and the great majority of lawmakers of both parties who want to stop Putin's war.

Republicans have been pushing for the Russian oil ban, joined by some Democrats eager to punish Putin.

"What if we crush the oil and gas sector of the Russian economy?" said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "That would be a lethal combination for the Russian economy."

Sen. Ed Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts and a leading advocate of climate change strategies, also backs an import ban.

"We cannot criticize Europe for its reliance on Russian energy as we pour dirty oil money into Russia," he said.

Still, Biden has resisted, fearing a ban could further disrupt global markets and raise already high prices at the pump. He also risks backlash from climate change activists who say U.S. officials must not use the Ukraine war to expand oil or gas drilling in the U.S., a step Republicans have been urging.

Gas prices in the U.S. averaged nearly \$3.73 a gallon Thursday, up almost \$1 from a year ago, according to AAA.

For now, the White House has said all options remain on the table.

"We don't have a strategic interest in reducing the global supply of energy," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki.

The remarks from the White House were widely criticized as misguided by Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, at a news conference Thursday introducing a bipartisan bill to halt Russian oil imports to the United States.

The legislation would halt Russian oil imports in the U.S. by declaring a national emergency, something Biden could also do on his own. It gained bipartisan support, including from leadership of the House

Problem Solvers Caucus.

"There is a moral obligation here: I don't want U.S. dollars to be funding this, this carnage in Ukraine led by Putin," Murkowski said.

Murkowski said she understood Biden won the White House in part on his promise to fight climate change, but she said after the Russian war in Ukraine, "We are in a different place."

Russian oil and gas exports have loomed over national security policy in the U.S. and its Western allies.

The energy sector is vital

to the Russian economy and the industry is a political force that leaves countries reliant on Putin's regime. Oil prices globally spiked with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, shaking markets.

The U.S. imported a small but notable amount of oil from Russia — some 7% of all imports of crude oil and petroleum products. Some US industry groups say it's even less. In 2021, the U.S. brought in roughly 245 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products from Russia — a one-year increase of 24%, according

to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Pelosi said she doesn't want to see rising gas prices at the pump for Americans, and outlined steps Congress and the administration are taking to avoid spikes.

Biden announced Tuesday that he is releasing 30 million barrels of oil from U.S. strategic reserves, part of a global effort to ease oil supplies amid the Ukraine war, and some Democrats have been pushing a temporary holiday from the federal gas tax to ease costs to consumers.

## New wave of US sanctions hits oligarchs, press secretary, 'Putin's chef'

By Aamer Madhani  
and Fatima Hussein  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration ordered new sanctions blocking Russian oligarchs and others in President Vladimir Putin's inner circle Thursday in response to Russian forces' pummeling of Ukraine.

Those targeted by the new sanctions include Putin's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov, and Alisher Burha-

novich Usmanov, one of Russia's wealthiest individuals and a close ally of Putin.

The U.S. State Department also announced visa bans on 19 Russian oligarchs and dozens of their family members and associates. Their assets in the United States will be frozen and their property will be blocked from use.

The goal was to maximize impact on Putin and Russia and minimize the harm on us and our allies and friends around the world," Biden said as he noted the new sanctions at the start of a meeting with his Cabinet and Vice Presi-



dent Kamala Harris. The White House said the oligarchs and dozens of their family members will be cut off from the U.S. financial system. Their assets in the United States will be frozen and their property will be blocked from use.

The White House described Peskov as "a top purveyor of Putin's propaganda."

The property of Usmanov

and the others will be blocked from use in the United States and by Americans. His assets include his superyacht, one of the world's largest, that was just seized by Germany. Usmanov's private jet, one of Russia's largest privately owned aircraft, is also covered by sanctions.

Others targeted Thurs-

berg, co-owner of the largest construction company for gas pipelines and electrical power supply lines in Russia; Sergei Chemezov, a former KGB agent who has long been close to Putin; Igor Shuvalov, a former first deputy prime minister and chairman of State Development Corp.; and Yevgeniy Prigozhin, a Russian businessman with close ties to Putin.

Prigozhin, who is known as "Putin's chef," was among those charged in 2018 by the

U.S. government as being part of a wide-ranging effort to sway political opinion in America during the 2016 presidential election.

According to the indictment then, Prigozhin and his companies provided significant funding to the Internet Research Agency, a St. Petersburg-based group accused of using bogus social media postings and advertisements fraudulently purchased in the name of Americans to influence the White House race.

## WORLD &amp; NATION

# Ukraine winning battle of imagery

Media capture pain, heroism in this war of David vs. Goliath

By David Bauder

Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — For people outside Ukraine, the conflict with Russia is experienced almost solely through the media.

In that theater, it hasn't been close.

Virtually all of the war's indelible images — the defiant guards on Snake Island, a woman's chilling offer of sunflower seeds to a Russian soldier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky saying he wants ammunition instead of a ride — have served to rally the world to his country's side.

Ukraine may be overcome by sheer military might, but the power of war's imagery will likely never be underestimated in the future.

News coverage has emphasized a David vs. Goliath theme, capturing both the fortitude and suffering of Ukrainians, and the country's leaders have skillfully provided material to advance the narrative.

"They seem to recognize that this is a war of images as much as a ground war," said Kenneth Osgood, a professor of history and an expert on propaganda and intelligence at the Colorado School of Mines. "Because without support, as a military reality, Ukraine doesn't stand a chance. As a political reality, it absolutely does."

Few moments captured the imagination quite like the answer offered by Ukrainian soldiers stationed on Snake Island in the Black Sea, when those on a Russian warship told them to surrender or face a bombing.

"Russian warship," the answer came back, "go (expletive) yourself."

The Ukrainian navy later said those soldiers, thought initially to have been killed in the ensuing bombing,



A woman grieves as paramedics perform CPR on a 6-year-old girl who was mortally injured during shelling Sunday in Mariupol, Ukraine. EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP



survived but were captured.

"It was as brave and courageous and in-your-face as it could possibly be," said Marty Kaplan, professor at the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism at the University of Southern California. "That's what the world was seeing. They were speaking on our behalf to the Russians."

News reports have been filled with stories of ordinary Ukrainians taking up arms, despite advancing age or inexperience. Citizens have worked together to fill boxes of Molotov cocktails to use against the enemy.

Images of defiance were also common, like citizens in Chernihiv photographed standing in the road to block Russian tanks.

In one widely spread video clip, an angry woman

verbally confronts a Russian soldier, ultimately offering to "put sunflower seeds in your pocket so they grow when you die."

In some cases, Ukrainians have humanized Russian soldiers in a way that divorces them from the faceless juggernaut, instead making them seem like vulnerable pawns themselves. In one posted video, a captured soldier phones home to his mother.

Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations read aloud the plaintive last text messages one Russian soldier sent home before he was killed.

Ukraine's government has maintained an active Twitter feed. It posted a map showing the comparative sizes of Russia and Ukraine with the message, "realize

the scale of Ukrainian heroism" and urged followers to "tag @Russia and tell them what you think of them."

On Tuesday, it retweeted a photo of author Stephen King wearing a shirt saying "I Stand with Ukraine," adding the message "we will prevail over those langoliers for you, sir," a reference to one of King's creations.

The Ukrainians have also stressed civilian casualties to emphasize the point that real people are suffering, despite Russian claims of seeking military targets. Pictures have emerged of unexploded bombs landing near a playground, or in front of a grocery store.

Reporters have found plenty of examples on their own. A story by The Associated Press depicted doctors in the port city of Mariupol

fruitlessly trying to save a 6-year-old girl injured in Russian shelling.

As he tried to help save her, a doctor looked at the camera of a video journalist and said, "Show this to Putin."

For the Ukrainians, Zelensky has been a tireless advocate, appearing with countrymen and on near-constant video addresses.

Turning down an offer to escape the country and instead pleading for help made him a hero to many watching.

By video, he gave a speech Tuesday to the European Parliament, his translator at one point fighting off sobs.

After Zelensky received a standing ovation, MSNBC's Willie Geist said, "the Churchill comparisons

are exhausted at this point."

In contrast to Zelensky, Russian leader Vladimir Putin has given speeches that have led to whispers about his mental capacity, and literally appears isolated by being seen at huge tables far away from any aides.

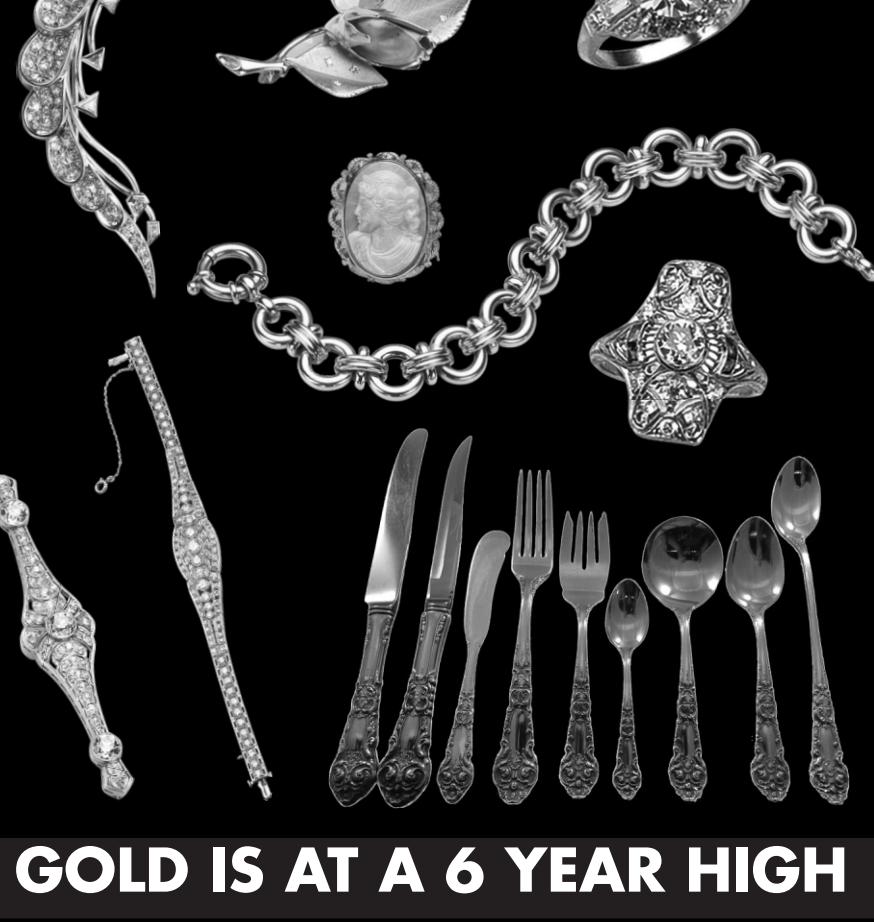
The Russian story, an invasion of a neighboring country, is a hard sell to begin with. But the Russians have shown a Soviet-era incompetence that contrasts with their recently displayed adeptness in information warfare, Osgood said.

"This is part of their overall strategy," Philip Seib, author of "Information at War: Journalism, Disinformation and Modern Warfare," said. "What they did not consider is that there are so many other voices out there."

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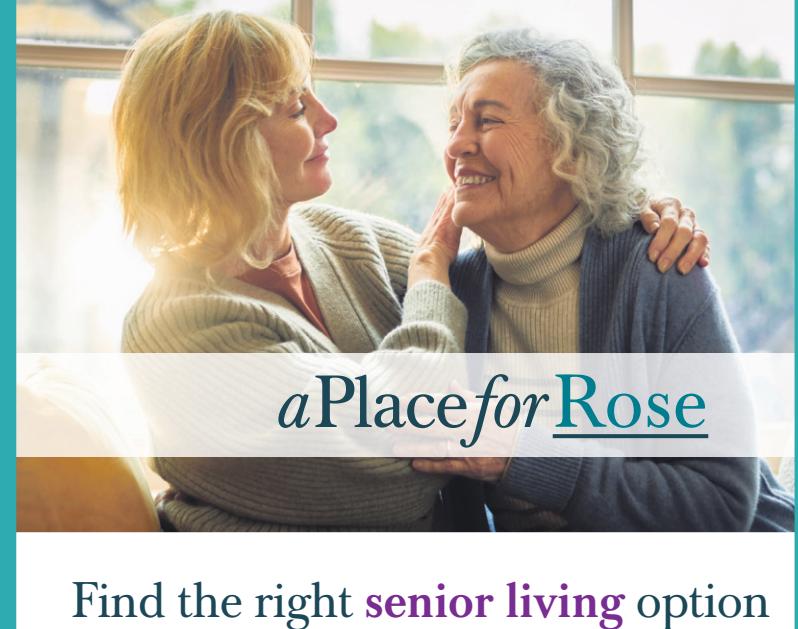
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## WORLD &amp; NATION

# Mosque dispute grips SKorean city

Muslims bear brunt of racism amid wave of anti-foreign fervor

By Choe Sang-Hun  
The New York Times

DAEGU, South Korea — Inside the dimly lit house, young Muslim men knelt and prayed in silence. Outside, their Korean neighbors gathered with angry signs to protest “a den of terrorists” moving into their neighborhood.

In a densely populated but otherwise quiet district in Daegu, a city in southeastern South Korea, an emotional standoff is underway.

Roughly 150 Muslims, mostly students at Kyung-pook National University, started building a mosque in a lot next door to their temporary house of worship about a year ago. When their Korean neighbors found out, they were furious.

The mosque would turn the neighborhood of Daehyeon-dong into “an enclave of Muslims and a crime-infested slum,” the South Korean neighbors wrote on signs and protest banners. It would bring more “noise” and a “food smell” from an unfamiliar culture, driving out the Korean residents.

The Muslim students and their Korean supporters fought back, arguing that they had the right to live and pray in peace in Daegu, one of the most politically conservative cities in South Korea.

“There is a difference between protest and harassment,” said Muaz Razaq, 25, a doctoral student from Pakistan.

The fault line between the two communities here has exposed an uncomfortable truth in South Korea. At a time when the country enjoys more global influence than ever — with consumers around the world eager to dance to its music, drive its cars and buy its smartphones — it is also grappling with a fierce wave of



Muslim students walk past protesters at a proposed mosque site in Daegu, South Korea. WOOWAE CHO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

anti-immigrant fervor and Islamophobia.

The arrival of 500 Yemeni asylum-seekers on the island of Jeju in 2018 triggered South Korea’s first series of organized anti-immigrant protests. The government responded to fears that the asylum-seekers were harboring terrorists by banning them from leaving the island.

“Their rules on the hijab alone are enough reason that they should never set foot in our country,” said Lee Hyung-oh, the leader of Refugee Out, a nationwide anti-immigration network that opposes the mosque in Daegu.

Many Koreans explain their attitude toward foreigners by citing history: Their small nation has survived invasions and occupations for centuries, maintaining its territory, language and ethnic identity. Those who oppose the mosque and immigration more broadly have often

warned that an influx of foreigners would threaten South Korea’s “pure blood” and “ethnic homogeneity.”

Some say the country does not have much of a choice.

South Korea’s rise as a cultural powerhouse has coincided with a demographic crisis. Years of low birthrates and rising incomes in urban areas have led to shortages of women who want to marry and live in rural towns. Farms and factories have found it difficult to fill low-wage jobs. Universities lack local students.

To help alleviate the challenges, South Korea opened its doors to workers and students from other nations.

Some rural men began to marry foreign women, especially from Vietnam. Yet when the government introduced policies to support “multicultural families,” there was a backlash. Suddenly, words like “multiculturalism” and “diversity” became pejorative terms for

many South Koreans.

And the antipathy has not been limited to Muslim students in Daegu, a city of more than 2 million people.

Last year, an anti-China uproar forced a local developer to cancel its plan to build a Chinese cultural center west of Seoul. In Ansan, south of Seoul, all but six of the 450 students in Wongok Elementary School are immigrants’ children because Korean parents have refused to send their children there. In 2020, a Ghanaian entertainer sparked a backlash when he criticized a black-face performance by high school students. He eventually apologized.

“Koreans have deep-rooted xenophobic beliefs that foreigners are inferior,” said Yi Soohn, a professor of sociology at Kyung-pook National University who supports the mosque. “But they value foreigners differently according to their origin. They treat Black

people from the United States or Europe differently from Black people from Africa.”

Runaway housing prices, a lack of social mobility and a widening income gap have contributed to the tensions. In a recent Facebook post, Yoon Suk-yeol, a leading conservative candidate in Wednesday’s presidential election, vowed to stop immigrants from getting “a free ride” with national health care. Lee Jae-myung, his more left-leaning rival, accused Yoon of fanning “xenophobic right-wing populism.”

The number of foreign residents in South Korea grew to 1.7 million, or 3.3% of the total population, in 2020, from 1.4 million in 2017. The government has predicted that the number will be 2.3 million by 2040. The overall population fell for the first time on record in 2021.

“Human beings are naturally biased, but don’t let the bias lead you to depriving

other people of their fundamental human rights,” said Ashraf Akintola, a doctoral student in biomedical engineering from Nigeria and one of the Muslim worshippers in Daegu. Akintola said he felt sad when a Korean protester followed him last year shouting, “Leave our country!” Back in Nigeria, he said, K-pop was so popular that his friends learned to speak Korean.

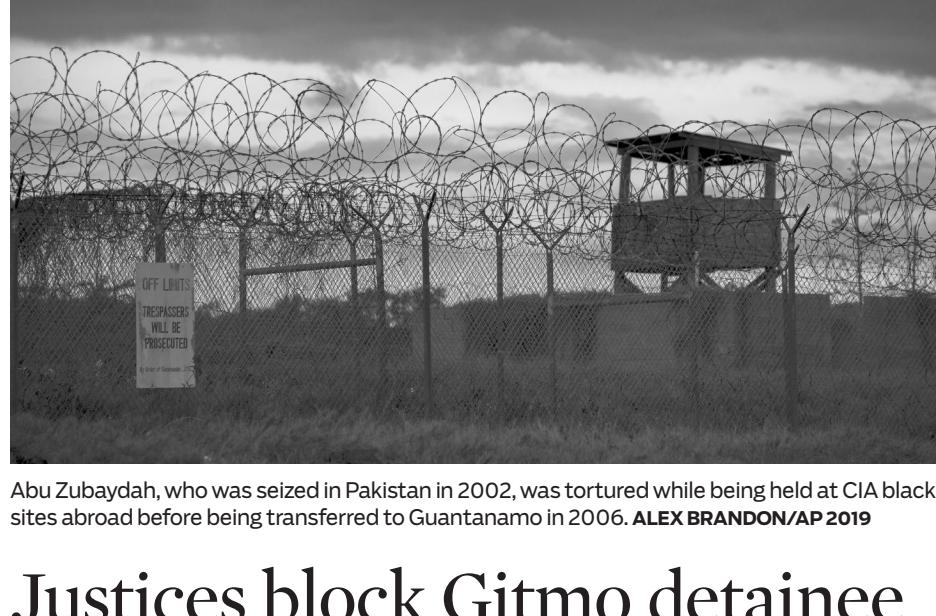
The Muslim students had prayed at a house in Daehyeon-dong for seven years. In late 2020, they began building a mosque, using a building next door as a temporary house of worship. That’s when Korean residents and activists joined forces to make the neighborhood the center of an anti-immigrant campaign.

In January, the neighbors hung a large black-and-white banner across from the proposed mosque site: “Korean people come first!”

“We are not against their religion,” said Kim Jeong-suk, a 67-year-old Korean resident who opposes the mosque. “We just can’t have a new religious facility in our crowded neighborhood, whether it’s Islamic, Buddhist or Christian.” The neighborhood already has 15 Christian churches, including one roughly 30 yards from where the mosque would be.

Many of the signs were removed after the government’s National Human Rights Commission intervened last October. Construction remains suspended as both sides take their case to court, but human rights lawyers say discrimination against immigrants can also be found in South Korean law.

“It’s one thing that Koreans want to be recognized globally, get rich and successful abroad,” said Hwang Pill-kyu, a human rights attorney who tracks abuses against immigrants. “It’s quite another whether they are willing to embrace foreigners.”



Abu Zubaydah, who was seized in Pakistan in 2002, was tortured while being held at CIA black sites abroad before being transferred to Guantanamo in 2006. ALEX BRANDON/AP 2019

## Justices block Gitmo detainee from getting torture testimony

By Jessica Gresko  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court sided with the government Thursday and dismissed a case involving a Guantanamo Bay detainee captured after the Sept. 11 attacks and tortured by the CIA abroad who has sought information about his treatment.

The United States insisted that the information Abu Zubaydah sought must remain secret even though much has been widely reported.

Zubaydah, who was seized in Pakistan in 2002, was once thought to be a high-ranking member of al-Qaida, the terrorist group that carried out the 2001 attacks. He was tortured while being held at so-called CIA black sites abroad before being transferred to Guantanamo in 2006.

Zubaydah was seeking to get the testimony of two former CIA contractors as part of an investigation into his treatment in Poland, where it has been widely reported he was once held. But six justices agreed his case should be thrown out.

Justice Stephen Breyer

wrote for the majority that the government had argued “Zubaydah’s discovery request could force former CIA contractors to confirm the location of the detention site and that confirmation would itself significantly harm national security interests.”

“In our view, the Government has provided sufficient support for its claim of ‘harm to warrant application’ of the so-called state secrets privilege, he said.

Many details about Zubaydah’s treatment have been reported, including that he was held in Thailand and Poland. The U.S. has allowed the disclosure of some information about his treatment. According to a 2014 Senate report, among other things Zubaydah was waterboarded more than 80 times and spent over 11 days in a coffin-size confinement box. Such techniques are now widely viewed as torture.

The U.S. has stopped short of acknowledging the locations of the black sites set up after 9/11 to gather intelligence about terrorist plots against Americans. The government has cited national security and

its commitments to foreign partners.

Conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing in a dissent for himself and liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor, said Zubaydah’s detention in Poland is no secret. Nothing in the case “suggests that requiring the government to acknowledge what the world already knows to be true” would endanger national security, he wrote.

Gorsuch noted that the events about which Zubaydah was seeking information had taken place two decades ago and have “long been declassified.”

Zubaydah’s lawyer, Joseph Margulies, said in an email that he was studying the decision.

Margulies had sought testimony from former CIA contractors James Mitchell and John “Bruce” Jessen, who are considered the architects of the CIA’s interrogation program. The two have testified in other hearings at Guantanamo. Mitchell even wrote a book.

Still, the Biden administration, like the Trump administration before it, opposed Zubaydah getting their testimony.

## Ky. jurors acquit ex-officer at fatal Breonna Taylor raid

By Dylan Lovan  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Kentucky jury Thursday cleared a former police officer of charges that he endangered neighbors when he fired shots into an apartment during the 2020 drug raid that ended with Breonna Taylor’s death.

The panel of eight men and four women delivered its verdict about three hours after it took the case following closing arguments from prosecution and defense attorneys.

Brett Hankison, 45, had been charged with three counts of wanton endangerment for firing through sliding-glass doors and a window of Taylor’s apartment during the raid that left the 26-year-old Black woman dead. Hankison’s attorneys never contested the ballistics evidence, but said he fired 10 bullets because he thought his fellow officers were “being executed.”

Hankison did not appear outside the courtroom after the verdict was read. But his attorney Stewart Mathews said he and his client were “thrilled.”

Asked what might have swayed the jury, Mathews replied, “I think it was absolutely the fact that he was doing his job as a police officer ... The jury felt like you go out and perform your duty and your brother officer gets shot, you got a right to defend yourself. Simple as that.”

Assistant Kentucky Attorney General Barbara Maines Whaley said she respected the jury’s verdict but had no further comment.

Taylor’s mother, Tamika Palmer, and a group of friends and family left without commenting after the verdict.

Hankison testified during the trial that he saw a muzzle flash from Taylor’s darkened hallway after



A deputy, left, talks to former Louisville police Officer Brett Hankison before Hankison leaves the courtroom after his acquittal Thursday in Louisville, Ky. TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

police burst through the door and thought officers were under heavy fire, so he quickly wheeled around a corner and sprayed 10 bullets, hoping to end the threat.

But in closing arguments Thursday, prosecutors cast doubt on what Hankison said he saw, challenging whether he could have looked through Taylor’s front door when police broke it open with a battering ram.

“He was never in the doorway,” Whaley told the jury.

Referring to Taylor she added, “His wanton conduct could have multiplied her death by three, easily.”

The former narcotics detective admitted to firing through Taylor’s patio doors and bedroom window, but said he did so to save his fellow officers. Asked if he did anything wrong that night, he said “absolutely not.”

Hankison was fired for shooting blindly during the raid.

Mathews told the jury in his closing argument Thursday that Hankison thought he was doing the right thing and is not a criminal who belongs in prison.

“He did what he thought he had to do in that instant.

This all happened in such a short span,” Mathews said.

A 20-year veteran K-9 officer assigned to handle a drug-sniffing dog during the raid, Hankison said he was positioned behind an officer with a battering ram, and could see the shadowy silhouette of a person “in a shooting stance” with what looked like an AR-15 rifle as Taylor’s door swung open.

No long gun was found — only the handgun of Taylor’s boyfriend Kenneth Walker, who told Louisville Police investigators he thought intruders were breaking in.

Investigators determined Walker fired the shot that passed through the leg of Sgt. John Mattingly, who along with Officer Myles Cosgrove, returned fire. A total of 32 rounds were fired by police. Walker wasn’t hit.

The killing of Taylor loomed over the trial, though prosecutors insisted in opening statements that the case wasn’t about her death or the police decisions that led to the March 13, 2020, raid. Jurors were shown a single image of her body.

Taylor, an emergency medical technician who had been settling down for bed when officers broke through her door, was shot multiple times and died at the scene.

## WORLD & NATION

### NEWS BRIEFING

## Jan. 6 committee sees evidence of Trump's 'criminal conspiracy'

From news services

**WASHINGTON** —The House panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol said late Wednesday for the first time that its evidence suggests crimes may have been committed by former President Donald Trump and his associates in the failed effort to overturn the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.

Trump and his associates engaged in a "criminal conspiracy" to prevent Congress from certifying Democrat Joe Biden's victory in the Electoral College, the House committee said in a court filing. Trump and those working with him spread false information about the outcome of the presidential election and pressured state officials to overturn the results, potentially violating multiple federal laws, the panel said.

"The Select Committee also has a good-faith basis for concluding that the President and members of his Campaign engaged in a criminal conspiracy to defraud the United States," the committee wrote in a filing submitted in U.S. District Court in the Central District of California.

The 221-page filing marks the committee's most formal effort to link the former president to a federal crime, but lawmakers do not have the power to bring criminal charges on their own and can only make a referral to the Justice Department.

The committee made the claims in response to a lawsuit by Trump adviser John Eastman, a lawyer and law professor who was consulting with Trump as he attempted to overturn the election. Eastman is trying to withhold documents from the committee.

The filing also provides

new details from the committee's interviews with several top Trump aides and members of former Vice President Mike Pence's team, including chief of staff Marc Short and chief counsel Greg Jacob.

On Thursday, the panel subpoenaed Kimberly Guilfoyle, the fiancee of the former president's eldest son, after she abruptly ended a voluntary interview with lawmakers last week.

The panel is seeking testimony and additional records from Guilfoyle, who spoke at the rally Trump held on the White House Ellipse before the Capitol riot.

Lawmakers say she raised funds for the rally and was in direct contact with its key participants and organizers.

#### Burn pit legislation:

A bill that would dramatically boost health care services and disability benefits for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan won approval Thursday in the House.

The measure has the backing of the nation's major veterans groups and underscores the continued cost of war years after the fighting has stopped. The bill's fate is unclear in the Senate, but if passed into law, it would increase spending by more than \$300 billion over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The bill passed by a vote of 256-174 with 34 Republicans joining all House Democrats in voting for it.

The bill would open up Department of Veterans Affairs health care to millions of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service even if they don't have a service-connected disability.

The bill also would provide new or increased disability benefits to thousands of



**Big cheese:** Roland Sahli, left, CEO of Gourmand AG, holds Gourmino Le Gruyere AOP after it was declared the 2022 World Champion Cheese on Thursday in Madison, Wisconsin. The winning cheese is produced in Bern, Switzerland. This year's competition drew nearly 3,000 entries from 29 countries and 33 states. **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CHEESE CONTEST**

veterans who have become ill with cancer or respiratory conditions such as bronchitis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The VA would presume that veterans developed their illness as a result of exposure to toxic substances during their service.

**Macron to run again:** French President Emmanuel Macron formally announced Thursday that he will run for a second term in April's presidential election, ahead of which he is already leading in the polls.

In a "letter to the French" published on domestic media websites, Macron said: "I am seeking your trust again. I am a candidate to invent with you, faced with the century's challenges, a French and European singular response."

Polls suggest Macron, 44, is the front-runner in the race. Conservative candidate Valérie Pécresse and two far-right figures, Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour, are expected to be his main challengers.

The bill also would provide new or increased disability benefits to thousands of

lengers.

**Spanish migration:** Hundreds of people tried for a second day to climb over the fences that separate a Spanish city in North Africa from Morocco, authorities said Thursday.

The Spanish government's delegation in Melilla said 1,200 migrants attempted to scale the 20-foot barrier that perimeters the city and that 380 succeeded.

On Wednesday, 2,500 people tried to enter the city, resulting in 491 crossings, according to local authorities.

Spanish security forces activated an "anti-intrusion" mechanism early Thursday to confront what the government's delegation described as "extreme violence" by trespassers who "threw stones, used hooks and sticks" at border agents.

**Child abuse arrests:** A two-year investigation led by authorities in New Zealand has resulted in the arrests of

hundreds of people around the world on charges of possessing and sharing child sexual abuse material, officials said Wednesday.

The investigation, called Operation H, involved 12 countries and began in 2019, after an unnamed online service provider reported that its platform was being used to share the horrific images. About 90,000 accounts were linked to the activity.

That led to the discovery of 32 gigabytes of files, some of which included "sadistic acts of sexual abuse of infants and children," according to a statement from the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, known as Europol.

Since then, at least 836 cases have been opened internationally, with more than 100 suspects identified across the European Union alone.

Those arrested included 47 people in Canada, 43 in New Zealand and hundreds in Britain. In Australia, the

police charged 121 men with 1,248 total offenses.

**NYC hate crimes arrest:** A 28-year-old homeless man has been charged with hate crimes after a string of unprovoked attacks on women of Asian descent in New York City, police said.

Steven Zajonc was arrested Wednesday in connection with assaults on seven women across Manhattan over a two-hour period Sunday.

The victims ranged in age from 19 to 57, police said. Most were punched in the face; one was shoved to the ground. Two were treated at hospitals.

Zajonc was arrested on seven counts each of assault as a hate crime, attempted assault as a hate crime, aggravated harassment and harassment. It wasn't clear whether he had an attorney who could comment on the charges.

Zajonc was apprehended at a midtown Manhattan library.



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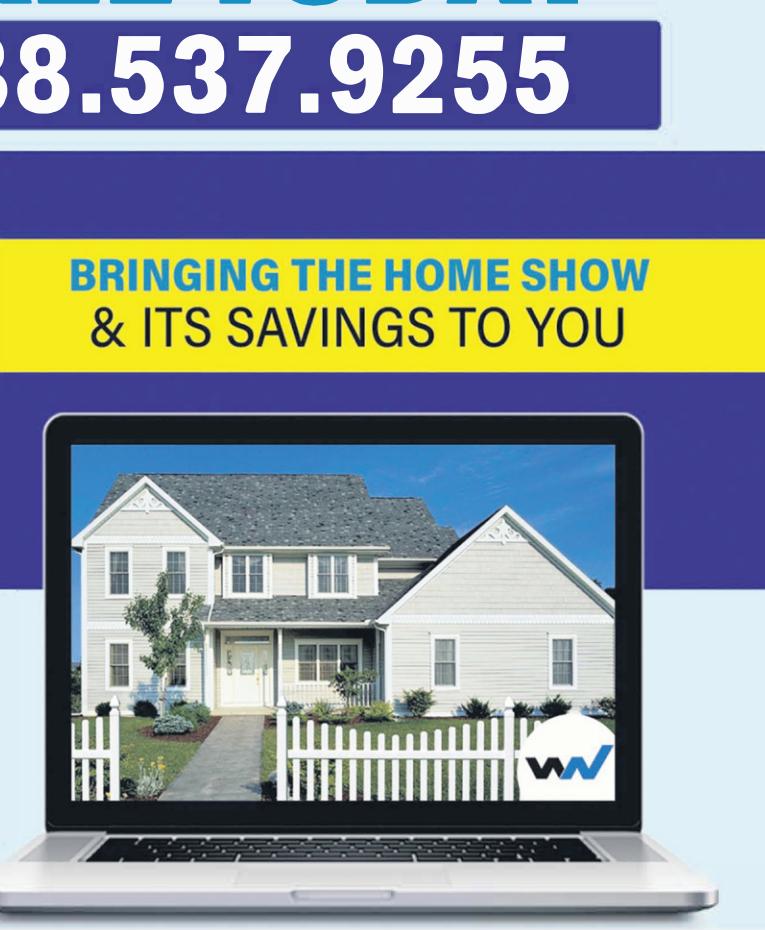
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# BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

## Stocks end another bumpy day lower; but crude oil prices ease

Markets remain volatile as investors continue to worry about conflict in Europe

**By Damian J. Troise and Alex Veiga**

Associated Press

Stocks fell and oil prices eased back Thursday after another bumpy day of trading on Wall Street as markets remained anxious about the broader impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Major indexes veered up and down for much of the day before a late-day slide pushed them into the red. The S&P 500 shed a 0.7% gain to close 0.5% lower, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.3%. The Nasdaq composite fell 1.6%, weighed down by technology stocks, which accounted for a big share of the market's decline. The pullback left the indexes on pace for weekly losses.

Bond yields were mostly steady. The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 1.85% from 1.86% late Wednesday.

Stocks rallied a day earlier after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said he favored a modest interest rate increase at the Fed's policy meeting in two weeks, bringing relief to investors who had feared he would back more aggressive moves to fight inflation.

"We've gotten a lot of clarity on what the Fed plans to do," said Liz Young, chief invest-

ment strategist at SoFi. "But we've got this overhanging cloud of the geopolitical risk and oil prices still pressuring sentiment a little bit."

The S&P 500 fell 23.05 points to 4,363.49. The Dow slid 96.69 points to 33,794.66. The Nasdaq dropped 214.07 points to 13,537.94.

Smaller company stocks also lost ground. The Russell 2000 index fell 26.46 points, or 1.3%, to 2,032.41.

Communication stocks, retailers and other companies that rely on direct consumer spending had some of the broadest losses. Sectors that are viewed as less risky, including utilities and household goods makers, gained ground.

The broader market remains volatile as investors continue to worry about the conflict in Europe along with rising inflation and the impact on economic growth and how central banks around the world act to try and restrain inflation.

The economic fallout from the Russian invasion expanded as Fitch Ratings and Moody's Ratings cut Russia's credit rating. The agencies said the invasion and Western sanctions have hurt Moscow's ability to repay debts and raised risks for the economy and stability.

The London Stock Exchange said it had suspended trading in shares of 27 companies with links to Russia, including some of the biggest in energy and steel, such as Lukoil, Gazprom, Sberbank, Rosneft and Magnitogorsk Iron & Steel Works. Those shares lost most of their value prior to the suspension. Rosneft shares dropped from \$7.91 on Feb. 16 to 6 cents on March 2, while Sberbank shares plunged from \$14.90 to 5 cents in that same time frame.

Trading on the Moscow exchange remained closed Thursday. Russia's ruble lost another 15% against the U.S. dollar and is worth less than 1 cent. It has plunged since Western governments imposed sanctions that cut off much of Russia's access to the global financial system.

The exposure and overlap that U.S. markets have to Russia is relatively low. The real risk is the exposure that European banks have to Russia, Young said.

"If European banks start to feel the contagion of that, then it's about what's our exposure to Europe, which surprisingly is still reasonably low," she said. "That doesn't mean there's not sentiment risk. Nobody likes to hear about financial markets freezing up."

## Russia's war will worsen US inflation, Powell says

**By Christopher Rugaber**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned Thursday that Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has already driven up oil prices, will likely further magnify the high inflation that has engulfed the U.S. economy.

At the same time, Powell said he is committed to doing whatever it will take to slow inflation, underscoring the Fed's high-risk challenge in raising interest rates enough to stem price increases without tipping the economy into another recession.

The Fed chair, addressing the Senate Banking Committee on his second day of semiannual testimony to Congress on interest rate policies, stressed his belief that the economy is strong enough to withstand higher borrowing costs. His expression of confidence echoed his testimony Wednesday that the Fed can engineer a "soft landing" in which the economy would slow enough to ease inflation even while hiring and growth remain healthy.

"Commodity prices have moved up — energy prices, in particular," Powell said when asked about the economic consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "That's going to work its way through the U.S. economy. We're going to see upward pressure on inflation, at least for a while."

Consumer prices are already rising at their fastest pace in four decades, having jumped 7.5% in January compared with 12 months earlier. Gas prices, a key driver of that increase, have soared 40% over the past year.

In the view of most economists, the surge in inflation is largely a consequence of a shortage of labor and components resulting from bottlenecked supply chains, much of it resulting from the global economy's swift rebound from the pandemic recession.

### BUSINESS BRIEFING

## Amazon to close all its bookstores

NEW YORK — Amazon is closing all of its brick-and-mortar bookstores, as well as its 4-star shops and pop up locations, as the online retail behemoth reworks its physical footprint.

The Seattle-based company said Wednesday that the move, which affects 66 stores in the U.S. and two in the United Kingdom, will enable it to concentrate on Amazon Fresh, Whole Foods Market, its convenience concept called Amazon Go and its upcoming Amazon Style stores, which will sell fashion and accessories.

Amazon opened its first brick-and-mortar bookstore in 2015, two decades after it began selling books online. Amazon's 4-star shops carry some best-selling products that Amazon.com sells.

## Twitter expands its fact-checking

Twitter is expanding Birdwatch, its crowd-sourced fact-checking project it started as a small and little-publicized pilot program more than a year ago.

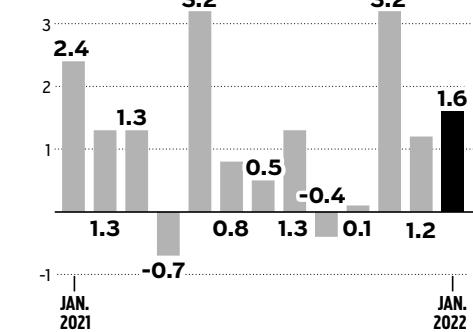
The program lets regular people flag and note misleading tweets.

Starting Thursday, a small, randomized group of U.S. Twitter users was able to see these Birdwatch notes on some tweets, the company said. The users will be able to rate them as helpful — or not.

To contribute fact checks to Birdwatch, anyone in the U.S. can sign up if they have a verified phone number with a U.S. carrier and no recent Twitter rule violations. They also have to agree to contribute to build understanding, act in good faith and be helpful, even to those who disagree.

## Manufacturing orders

New orders of durable goods, monthly percent change, seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: U.S. Commerce Department

TNS

## Musk invites UAW to hold organizing vote

Associated Press

DETROIT — Tesla CEO Elon Musk is inviting the United Auto Workers union to hold an organizing vote at Tesla's factory in Fremont, California.

On Twitter, Musk wrote that he invited the union to hold a vote at its convenience. "Tesla will do nothing to stop them," he wrote.

The UAW wouldn't comment Thursday, but spokesman Brian Rothenberg pointed out that Tesla is fighting a U.S. National Labor Relations Board ruling from last year that found the company and Musk engaged in unfair labor practices in 2018, partly because of his tweets.

Musk's recent tweets seem to defy the

NLRB ruling, and are part of an escalating fight between Musk and federal regulatory agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Musk's Wednesday tweet about the union came in response to one from Gene Simmons, the front man for the rock band Kiss, who was supporting Musk in a Twitter spat with President Joe Biden over electric vehicle manufacturing.

Biden had tweeted Tuesday about Ford and General Motors spending a total of \$18 billion to create 15,000 jobs building electric vehicles. Musk replied that Tesla had created over 50,000 U.S. jobs building electric vehicles and is investing more than GM and Ford combined.

Simmons wrote that Musk had a "solid point" and questioned if Biden avoids mentioning Tesla because the company isn't unionized. Unions have strongly supported Biden, and the UAW endorsed him in 2020.

A year ago, the labor relations board found that in a May 20, 2018, tweet, Musk unlawfully threatened employees with loss of stock options if they chose to be represented by the United Auto Workers union.

Last spring, Tesla appealed the NLRB to a federal appeals court.

Among other things, the lengthy March 2021 NLRB ruling also ordered Tesla to reinstate an employee who was fired for union-organizing activity and to give him back pay.

**BUSINESS**

Developers have recently realized the value of even the most minor waterways for commerce. Above, the Little Miami River in Loveland, Ohio. **MADDIE MCGARVEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

## Overlooked creeks now seen as assets for urban renewal

**By Kevin Williams**  
The New York Times

Trotwood is a hard-luck suburb of Dayton, Ohio. With a population of about 25,000, it was once the region's premier retail and entertainment destination. The city boasted one of the area's first enclosed malls and a 5,500-seat arena.

But changing demographics and economic shifts led the city into a steep decline. Today, it's a retail wasteland of shuttered storefronts, and the arena is long gone.

But Trotwood has another asset to count on as it plots a comeback: Wolf Creek, a ribbon of water that meets the Great Miami River in Dayton.

A former rail line along the creek has been converted into a bike path, and on warm days, cyclists pedal under the shade of sycamores. Still, Wolf Creek often goes unnoticed by those who live near it.

"Many residents cross it every day but don't realize it's there," said Chad Downing, executive director of the Trotwood Community Improvement Corp., which is leading the city's redevel-

opment.

Like many small cities and towns across the country, Trotwood had turned its back on its creek, dismissing it as irrelevant and an occasional nuisance. But developers have recently realized the value of even the most minor waterways for luring customers and commerce.

For decades, urban renewal in large cities has centered on riverfronts, and smaller towns are now recognizing that creeks can provide the same opportunities.

But the creeks can also pose flooding risks, aggravated as climate change causes increasingly extreme weather events, making long-term development a spin of the roulette wheel. Rivers generally rise more slowly and keep areas submerged longer, but creeks, streams and small rivers create different challenges. Streams of water that most of the year aren't deep enough to reach an adult's ankles can suddenly morph into torrents that can sweep away cars, rip homes from their foundations and leave a trail of destruction.

Trotwood is trying to

redevelop its downtown into an environment that embraces the creek.

"But how do we make sure we are not creating a flood situation that has to be dealt with in the future?" Downing said.

Increased commercial development worsens the problem by creating impervious surfaces, which force more water into creeks, causing them to rise faster and farther.

Developers should steer clear of building anywhere in the 500-year flood plain of a creek, said Bill Becker, a climate change expert and former Department of Energy official.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency publishes maps outlining 100-year and 500-year flood levels, but Becker said even those maps did not go far enough. There is an inherent tension, he said, because people are drawn to water, and developers are likely to follow.

"And developers love the creek land because it is often low-priced," said Becker, author of "The Creeks Will Rise," which details how people and streams can coexist.

Trotwood is trying to

## UN: Europe in water crisis as global warming wrecks crops

**By Aritz Parra  
and Sergio Rodrigo**  
Associated Press

LA HERRADURA, Spain — "Herders and farmers have their feet on the ground, but their eyes on the sky."

The old saying is popular in Spain's rural communities who, faced with recurrent droughts, have historically paraded sculptures of saints to pray for rain. The saints are out again this year as large swaths of Spain face one of the driest winters on record.

Even as irrigation infrastructure boomed along with industrial farming, the country's ubiquitous dams and desalination plants are up against a looming water crisis that scientists have been warning about for decades.

Declining agricultural yields in Europe — and the battle for diminishing water resources, especially in the southern part of the continent — are perils that lie ahead as global temperatures continue to rise, the world's top climate scientists say.

Their conclusions are part of a report this week by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

For Europe, heat and flooding in addition to agricultural losses and water scarcity will be major climate impacts, the report said.

And while European awareness of global warming motivates policymakers to do more, scientists say the ambition and execution of solutions vary greatly from country to country.

Extreme heat, floods and droughts will lead to widespread disruption of the economy, including damage to infrastructure and energy supplies, the need for more air conditioning and greater water demand, the report warned.

As warming rises faster in Europe than the global



Spain is in the midst of one of the driest winters on record. Above, an avocado tree with discolored leaves in the coastal town of Almuñecar in southern Spain. **CARLOS GIL/AP**

mean, panelists paint a picture of a continent divided: an increasingly arid south, struggling with desertification and competing for scarcer water — and a north adopting a more traditional Mediterranean climate that could provide some increased crop yields and forest growth, but with risks of its own.

If temperatures rise an additional 3.4 Fahrenheit, corn harvest losses could reach 50%, especially in southern Europe, the report warned. Harvests of wheat, meanwhile, could increase in the north as long as warming doesn't exceed about 3.4 Fahrenheit since pre-industrial levels.

But this is not a silver lining. From a continental perspective, the report says due to combined heat and drought, "substantive agricultural production losses are projected for most European areas over the 21st century, which will not be offset by gains in Northern Europe."

"There are some vegetables and warm climate crops that might see benefits in the short term," Rachel Licker, a climate expert at the Union of

Concerned Scientists, said. "But the major cereal crops, the major commodities, the major crops that are exported and really form the basis of a lot of the economy are the ones that are likely to be negatively affected."

Europe will also suffer other negative impacts. Coastal damage is projected to increase at least tenfold by the end of the century.

Inequality is expected to grow within and among countries as the continent sees more deaths from heatstroke, unbearable summers and irreparable damage to ecosystems.

As water scarcity hits southern Europe first, followed by Western and Central Europe, the U.N. report says irrigation will continue to be a solution for some to feed a warming continent, but it will be limited by water availability.

Additional means for watering crops won't even be an option in places like Spain's southeast, according to food systems expert Marta Rivera-Ferre, who helped review the report.

"The elevated risk of drought there has to let us think again about how best to adapt," she said.

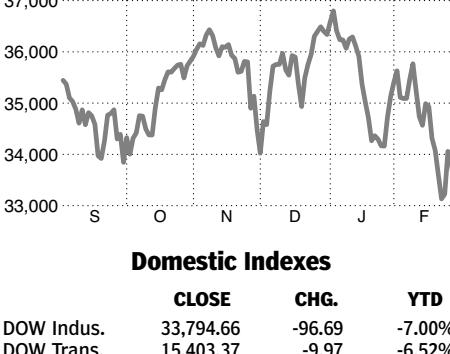
## MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, March 4, 2022

**DOW**  
33,794.66 -96.69

**10-YR T-BOND**  
1.84% -.02

**GOLD**  
\$1,934.40 +13.50



### Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	33,794.66	-96.69	-7.00%
DOW Trans.	15,403.37	-9.97	-6.52%
DOW Util.	966.81	+16.17	-1.42%
NYSE Comp.	16,287.49	-93.42	-5.11%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,537.94	-214.07	-13.47%
S&P 500	4,363.49	-23.05	-8.45%
S&P 400	2,657.44	-22.16	-6.49%
Wilshire 5000	43,996.14	-369.78	-9.21%
Russell 2000	2,032.41	-26.46	-9.48%

### Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	18.06	-.47	-33.6		Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	202.97	-.54	-39.7	
AT&T Inc (T)	23.91	+.09	-2.8		MetLife Inc (MET)	66.56	+.15	+6.5	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	111.98	-.60	-22.2		Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	295.92	-.47	-12.0	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	15.71	-.66	-12.5		Mullen Automotve (MULN)	.89	-.09	-83.0	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	76.36	+.19	-12.7		Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	18.56	-.50	-10.5	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	166.23	-.33	-6.4		Novartis AG (NVS)	86.14	-.54	-1.5	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	45.42	+.13	-8.9		Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	237.14	-.56	-19.4	
Bank of America (BAC)	42.49	-.46	-4.5		Ocic Petl (OXY)	47.75	-.62	+64.7	
Barnes Group (B)	44.35	-.89	-4.8		Oil Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	79.18	+.40	-9.1	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	210,206	-61.46	-12.4		Palantir Technol (PLTR)	11.34	-.72	-37.7	
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	69.11	+.26	+10.8		Peabody Energy Corp (BTU)	22.97	+.21	+128.1	
CTI BioPharma (CTIC)	3.95	+.58	+59.3		Peoples Utg Fnc (PBCT)	20.78	+.24	+16.6	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	104.54	+.11	+1.3		Pfizer Inc (PFE)	47.83	+.13	-19.0	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	18.27	-.75	-9.2		Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.99	-.05	-24.7	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	45.88	+.97	-15.4		Prudential Fnc (PRU)	109.54	+.17	+1.2	
Charter Commuc (CHTR)	561.82	-9.17	-13.8		Pub Sv Ent Gp (PEG)	66.29	+.91	-.7	
Cigna Corp (CI)	237.81	-.20	-3.6		Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	99.83	-.91	+16.0	
Citigroup (C)	57.62	-.19	-4.6		Rivian Automotive A (RIVN)	50.91	-.26	-50.9	
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (CLF)	25.41	+.17	+16.7		Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.92	+.22	...	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.12	+.74	-6.4		SS&T Technologies (SSNC)	76.38	+.35	-6.8	
Disney (DIS)	145.57	-.17	-6.0		Snowflake Inc (SNOW)	224.02	-.40	-33.9	
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	20.91	-.28	-23.9		SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	10.69	-.89	-32.4	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	114.70	-.15	-10.0		Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	5.25	-.01	+12.7	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.50	+.37	+8.8		Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	166.15	+.18	-11.9	
Eversource Energy (ES)	83.47	+.27	-8.3		Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.59	-.30	-2.9	
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	81.04	+.51	+32.4		Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.51	-.02	-11.8	
Ford Motor (F)	17.60	-.50	-15.3		Terex Corp (TEX)	40.34	+.40	-8.2	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.69	-.38	+9.4		Tonix Pharma (TNXP)	.25	-.26	-29.1	
Gen Dynamics (GD)	238.13	+.23	+14.2		Travelers Cos (TRV)	173.60	-.08	+11.0	
Gen Electric (GE)	92.45	-.71	-7.6		Uber Technologies (UBER)	31.72	-.23	-24.4	
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB)	3.28	-.95	-54.0		United Rentals (URI)	328.64	+.23	-1.1	
Guardion Health Sci (GHSI)	.22	-.02	-66.2		United Steel Corp (X)	30.81	+.19	+29.4	
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	69.27	+.09	+.3		UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	486.59	+.21	-3.1	
Honeywell Intl (HON)	187.52	+.08	-10.1		Verizon Comm (VZ)	54.66	+.52	+5.2	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.30	-.21	-3.9		Virtus Invest (VRTS)	234.70	-.59	-21.0	
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	2.20	+.14	+2.8		Voya Financial (VOYA)	65.25	-.26	-1.6	
Infosys Ltd (INFY)									

**Helen Bennett**  
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# OPINION

COURANT.COM / OPINION

## A reminder why conquest is a losing proposition



**Paul Krugman**

The Ukrainian miracle may not last. Vladimir Putin's attempt to win a quick victory on the cheap, seizing major cities with relatively light forces, has faced major resistance, but the tanks and big guns are moving up. And despite the incredible heroism of Ukraine's people, it's still more likely than not that the Russian flag will eventually be planted amid the rubble of Kyiv and Kharkiv.

But even if that happens, the Russian Federation will be left weaker and poorer than it was before the invasion. Conquest doesn't pay.

Why not? If you go back in history, there are plenty of examples of powers that enriched themselves through military prowess. The Romans surely profited from the conquest of the Hellenistic world, as did Spain from the conquest of the Aztecs and the Incas. But the modern world is different — where by "modern," I mean at least the past century and a half.

British author Norman Angell published his famous tract "The Great Illusion" in 1909, arguing that war had become obsolete. His book was widely misinterpreted as saying that war could no longer happen, a proposition proved horribly wrong over the next two generations. What Angell

actually said was that even the victors in war could no longer derive any profit from their success.

And he was surely right about that. We're all thankful that the Allies prevailed in World War II, but Britain emerged as a diminished power, suffering through years of austerity as it struggled to overcome a shortage of foreign exchange. Even the United States had a harder postwar adjustment than many realize, experiencing a bout of price increases that for a time pushed inflation above 20%.

And conversely, even utter defeat didn't prevent Germany and Japan from eventually achieving unprecedented prosperity.

Why and when did conquest become unprofitable? Angell argued that everything changed with the rise of a "vital interdependence" among nations, "cutting athwart international frontiers," which he suggested was "largely the work of the past 40 years" — beginning around 1870. That seems like a fair guess: 1870 was roughly when railroads, steamships and telegraphs made possible the creation of what some economists call the first global economy.

In such a global economy, it's hard to conquer another country without cutting that country — and yourself — off from the international division of labor, not to mention the international financial system, at great cost. We can see that dynamic happening to Russia as we speak.

Angell also emphasized the limits to confiscation in a modern economy. You can't just seize industrial assets the way preindustrial conquerors could seize land, because arbitrary confiscation destroys the incentives and sense of security an advanced society needs to stay productive. Again, history vindicated his analysis. For a while, Nazi Germany occupied nations with a combined prewar gross domestic product roughly twice its own — but despite ruthless exploitation, the occupied territories seem to have paid for only about 30% of the German war effort, in part because many of the economies Germany tried to exploit collapsed under the burden.

An aside: Isn't it extraordinary and horrible to find ourselves in a situation where Hitler's economic failures tell us useful things about future prospects? But that's where we are. Thanks, Putin.

I add two more factors that explain why conquest is futile.

The first is that modern war uses an incredible amount of resources. Pre-modern armies used limited amounts of ammunition and could, to some extent, live off the land. As late as 1864, Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman could cut loose from his supply lines and march across Georgia carrying only 20 days' worth of rations. But modern armies require huge amounts of ammunition,

replacement parts and, above all, fuel for their vehicles. Indeed, an assessment from Britain's Ministry of Defense says that the Russian advance on Kyiv temporarily stalled "probably as a result of continuing logistical difficulties." What this means for would-be conquerors is that conquest, even if successful, is extremely expensive, making it even less likely that it can ever pay.

Second, we now live in a world of passionate nationalism. Ancient and medieval peasants probably didn't care who was exploiting them; modern workers do. Putin's attempt to seize Ukraine appears to be predicated not just on his belief that there is no such thing as a Ukrainian nation, but also on the assumption that the Ukrainians themselves can be persuaded to consider themselves Russians. That seems very unlikely to happen, so even if Kyiv and other major cities fall, Russia will find itself spending years trying to hold down a hostile population.

So conquest is a losing proposition. This has been true for at least a century and a half; it has been obvious to anyone willing to look at the facts for more than a century. Unfortunately, there are still madmen and fanatics who refuse to believe this — and some of them control nations and armies.

*Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.*

## 5 ways to think about Biden's address

**By Jonathan Bernstein**

Bloomberg Opinion

The State of the Union, more than any other presidential address, is a heavily negotiated speech. Presidents are always speaking to multiple audiences, but never more than when they fulfill their constitutional obligation to "give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union."

World events frequently force the president to address an international audience. Party actors and interest groups fight to get mentions of their causes, as do those within the administration who are fighting for success on Capitol Hill or in the bureaucracy. Members of Congress want their issues mentioned, too, and congressional leaders or White House legislative staffers might support making those members happy to secure their support for unrelated matters.

Political aides and pollsters want the president to focus on popular achievements and proposals. Then there are the policy areas that pundits and newspaper editorial writers consider important; skip any mention of them, and the speech may get bad reviews. And there are the White House speechwriters, who want the whole thing to sound good, to have a theme, and to have memorable lines.

The result is always a laundry list that hops from one item to the next, rarely impressing anyone.

President Joe Biden's first formal State of the Union on Tuesday night (he addressed a joint session of Congress last year, but that didn't count for obscure reasons) checked off each of these boxes. It was fine. Most of it wasn't memorable. It will neither help him nor hurt him politically.

Here are some ways to think about it:

The events of the last week required starting with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The timing worked out well for Biden. Every president is happy to start with something that draws enthusiastic bipartisan applause, and right now is something of a feel-good moment for solidarity with Ukraine, a moment that may or may not last. Naturally, the speechwriters and the president took full advantage. It also helps that while Biden did mention the particular policy choices he's made, he was able to frame his remarks around support for Ukraine and opposition to Russian President Vladimir Putin, leaving Republicans who accuse him of lacking toughness with little choice but to cheer.

The speech also came at a point in the pandemic that allowed Biden to strike a far more optimistic, even triumphant, tone than would have been possible six weeks ago, and even perhaps two weeks ago. The symbolism of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Kamala Harris sitting behind Biden without masks was perhaps more important than the words Biden used.



President Biden gave his first State of the Union address amid a pandemic and after Ukraine was invaded. JIM LO SCALZO/EPA

Political scientists rarely find evidence of presidential speeches changing minds, but it's at least possible that some Democratic viewers who have grown pessimistic about the coronavirus during the delta and omicron waves may take both the words and the symbolism as encouragement to start feeling better about it. (I wouldn't expect any such reaction from Republicans, and of course far fewer of them tune in to hear a Democratic president's speech, anyway).

Speaking of Democrats: Large portions of the speech were directed mainly at them and their legislative priorities. That included a lengthy section boasting about the successes of last year's big bills, the COVID-19 relief measure that passed in March and the infrastructure bill that became law in November. Biden also, while acknowledging inflation, talked up the strong results on jobs and economic growth. It's unlikely that he is going to jawbone his way to convincing people who currently give the economy bad marks to change their minds, but it can't hurt to try. And then Biden laundry-listed his way through the Democratic agenda, ticking off

items from his sidelined Build Back Better package and voting rights and abortion rights wish lists. Each of those initiatives has a strong constituency, and Biden would have made enemies by omitting them — whether they have a good chance of passing or not.

The speech also had a healthy portion of what Biden seemed to regard as a bipartisan agenda. Crime and immigration were framed (or perhaps reframed) in terms meant to please most Democrats: support for cops and the most popular gun-control options; support for tough border control and for the most sympathetic categories of immigrants. Later, Biden packaged programs aimed at opioid abuse, mental health, veterans and cancer as a bipartisan agenda. It's not clear that anyone (except perhaps Joe Manchin of West Virginia, the most skeptical Senate Democrat when it comes to programs favored by progressives) will respond much to that kind of talk, but then again it's not apt to alienate anyone but the most liberal Democrats, either.

As for Biden's delivery? The president seemed to enjoy the ritual. He's a more

adept public speaker than some of his predecessors, notably Jimmy Carter and both George H.W. and George W. Bush, but it is not nearly as good as Ronald Reagan or Barack Obama. Nor does he appear quite as comfortable speaking to the nation through a congressional audience as Bill Clinton was. (I suppose I should mention that, like all modern presidents except Donald Trump, Biden is competent at using a teleprompter and can actually read a speech without inserting numerous ad-libbed falsehoods.) Biden rushed himself at times, stepping on some applause lines. His youthful stutter has reemerged as he's aged (he's 79) and is a challenge for him that probably explains why he messed up the flow of some lines and hit on a few words incorrectly (saying Iranians at one point when he meant Ukrainians, for example). Don't read too much into any of this; it's unlikely that even the very best or the very worst delivery would affect public opinion.

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## Biden's agenda to bring down inflation is lacking growth

**By Karl W. Smith**

Bloomberg Opinion

In his State of the Union address, President Joe Biden told Americans that he had a realistic plan for bringing down inflation. The agenda he laid out, however, has little chance of doing so.

Consider, for example, the president's remarks about the high price of prescription medicine. It's undoubtedly the case that U.S. consumers are forced to pay for drug research and development for the rest of the world. That needs to change.

But a cap on prescription drug prices is not the way to go about it. In reality, the proposal amounts to a tax on pharmaceutical companies.

The basic idea is that if drug companies attempt to charge prices above some government-set maximum, the federal

government will simply tax the difference. Although this proposal is scored as a major revenue increase by the Congressional Budget Office, even many liberals are worried that it will stymie innovation.

The president also had some ideas designed to help workers: increases in the minimum wage, additional regulations targeting pay discrepancies and legislation designed to give unions the upper hand when organizing new workplaces. These are all controversial measures that, whatever their merits, are likely to raise costs for U.S. businesses — and increase the problem of inflation in the short term.

And then there was his worst proposal of all, at least from an inflation standpoint: his promise that the federal government will "Buy American."

The pledge goes far beyond simple set-asides for U.S. business and seemingly

requires all federal procurements to be, in the president's words, "made in America from beginning to end, all of it." This radical commitment to essentially ban the purchase of foreign products would raise costs for the U.S. government and lead to worsening inflation.

There are smart ways to develop U.S. capacity. A blanket ban on the purchase of foreign goods is not one of them.

In fact, Biden's best idea of the night was a proposal that would help increase U.S. manufacturing capacity. He was right to tell Congress to pass the Bipartisan Innovation Act.

The bill would do two things: First, it would provide billions in congressional funding to help build semiconductor manufacturing in the U.S. It's become evident over the course of the pandemic that the lack of this capacity could hold the

U.S. economy hostage.

Second, the bill would provide several hundred billion dollars in basic research funding. This is the type of government funding that has the biggest chance of sparking a true breakthrough and creating the scientific basis for technology that the private sector can put to good use.

As potentially helpful as this bill is, however, it is not likely to do much about inflation anytime soon. Basic scientific research tends to take decades before it bears fruit.

It's crucial that the U.S. make these investments — but they need to be paired with a more broad-based growth agenda. That's what was missing from the president's speech.

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### Connecticut

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Hartford

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 1501, Route 12, Gales Ferry CT 06335 to satisfy a lien on March 17th 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at [www.storage-rentreserves.com](http://www.storage-rentreserves.com):

Cube- 2114 - Amargeet Singh  
Cube- 100 - Rosa Ray  
Cube- 311 - Kimberly Godwin  
Cube- 603 - Jasmine Strong  
Cube- 701 - Nitasia Sutton  
Cube- 1423 - Jason Howard  
Cube- 2101 - Rhonda Harris  
3/3, 3/4/2022 7157201

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 391 N. Frontage Rd., West Hartford, CT 06120 to satisfy a lien on March 17, 2022 at approx. 2:30 pm at [www.storage-rentreserves.com](http://www.storage-rentreserves.com):

Cube: 1527 - Denver barnett - Life time homes,  
Cube: 2138- Stephany Codner,  
Cube: 3115-Kimberly Falcone,  
3/4/2022 7156497

**TOWN OF ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS ROOFS 2021 REFERENDUM PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MUNICIPAL FACILITIES**

Sealed responses to the RFQ&P named above will be received at the office of the Director of Finance until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2022. Thereafter, the proposal portion will be opened in public and read aloud or opened and read aloud pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders.

The RFQ&P documents will be available from the Office of the Director of Public Works, Stanley E. Jabolonski - DPW Complex, 40 Moody Road, Enfield, CT 06028, telephone number (860) 763-7599 or the Town's website, [www.enfield.ct.gov](http://www.enfield.ct.gov).

The Town of Enfield reserves the right to accept or reject any, all, or any part of the responses, to waive formalities or informals, and to make awards that are deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

John A. Wilcox  
Director of Finance  
EOE/AA  
3/4/22 7162070

### Connecticut

#### NOTICE

**CARE AND PROTECTION, TERMINATION OF PERSONAL RIGHTS, SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION, DOCKET NUMBER: 20CP01138B**, Trial Court of Massachusetts, Juvenile Court Department, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin/Hampshire County Juvenile Court, 116 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035 TO: Unknown unnamed father of Donovan Willey born on March 1, 2007 in Windham, CT to Christina Willey: A petition has been presented to this court by DCF Robert Van Want, seeking, as to the following child Donovan M Willey that said child be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, guardianship, or other rights and responsibilities of the child named herein, if it finds that the child is in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child would be served by said disposition.

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: 04/01/2022 at 09:30 AM Hearing on Merits

You may bring an attorney with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.

If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter with a trial on the merits of the petition and an adjudication of this matter.

For further information, call the Office of the Clerk-Magistrate at 411-324-4056.

WITNESS: Hon. Charles S. Belkay, FIRST JUSTICE; Christopher D. Reavey, CLERK-MAGISTRATE, DATE ISSUED: 02/18/2022

3/4, 3/7, 3/14/2022 7157109

Please submit any claims to:

Steven Eisenberg  
Director of Operations  
UPS Capital Business Credit  
PO Box 573  
Windsor, CT 06095  
860-305-6947  
seisenberg@ups.com

Please contact Mr. Eisenberg with any questions you may have concerning the dissolution.

3/4/2022 7162969

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Remedy

BD55, LLC, 2 Vliet Farm Road, Asbury, NJ 08802 hereby gives notice pursuant to CGS §22a-134a(i) and RCSA §22a-133k-(d) that remediation will be completed at the property located at 55 Peters Road, Bloomfield, CT 06009, (REM ID 13218) by BD55, LLC, which is the person responsible for such remediation. Other sources of soil and/or groundwater contamination, including extractable total petroleum hydrocarbons and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons from asphalt fragments, are present in various locations at the site from fill material that was historically placed in areas that are now lawns adjacent to an industrial building. The site will be remediated by Magdol Environmental Consulting, LLC in accordance with the remediation standards by imposing an environmental Land Use Restriction (ELUR) to prohibit residential use of the site. The proposed ELUR is expected to be implemented in the first quarter of 2022. Public comments may be submitted via electronic mail or in writing, for thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notification to, and any interested person may obtain additional information from Magdol Environmental Consulting, LLC, 54 Thornton Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, (860) 819-4032 or [jmcallahan@magdol.com](mailto:jmcallahan@magdol.com). Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 2nd day of March 2022.

3/4/2022 7162966

BD55, LLC, 2 Vliet Farm Road, Asbury, NJ 08802 hereby gives notice pursuant to CGS §22a-134a(i) and RCSA §22a-133k-(d) that remediation will be completed at the property located at 55 Peters Road, Bloomfield, CT 06009, (REM ID 13218) by BD55, LLC, which is the person responsible for such remediation. Other sources of soil and/or groundwater contamination, including extractable total petroleum hydrocarbons and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons from asphalt fragments, are present in various locations at the site from fill material that was historically placed in areas that are now lawns adjacent to an industrial building. The site will be remediated by Magdol Environmental Consulting, LLC in accordance with the remediation standards by imposing an environmental Land Use Restriction (ELUR) to prohibit residential use of the site. The proposed ELUR is expected to be implemented in the first quarter of 2022. Public comments may be submitted via electronic mail or in writing, for thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notification to, and any interested person may obtain additional information from Magdol Environmental Consulting, LLC, 54 Thornton Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, (860) 819-4032 or [jmcallahan@magdol.com](mailto:jmcallahan@magdol.com). Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 2nd day of March 2022.

3/4/2022 7162963

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3/4/2022 7162963

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3/4/2022 716296

**OBITUARIES BY TOWN**

<b>Avon</b>	<b>Newington</b>
Joe K. Koe	Judith Guglietta
<b>Berlin</b>	<b>Other Towns in CT</b>
Leocadia Niedzwiecki	Louis Gonzales
<b>Cromwell</b>	<b>Out of State</b>
William R. Galovich	Theodore H. Jaffee
Louis Gonzales	
<b>East Hampton</b>	<b>Plainville</b>
Frederick R. Shores	Edward Marcinczyk
<b>Farmington</b>	Timothy Scanlon
Concettina Gallo	Cheryl Selden
Joe K. Koe	<b>Rocky Hill</b>
<b>Granby</b>	Kathryn Connors
Gilbert F. Justo	<b>Suffield</b>
<b>Hartford</b>	Joanne M. Sullivan
Herbert Chogel	<b>West Hartford</b>
Mary Garofalo	Herbert Chogel
Almeda Stechholz	Concettina Gallo
<b>New Britain</b>	Judith Guglietta
Theodore H. Jaffee	<b>Wethersfield</b>
Edward Marcinczyk	Frederick R. Shores

\* Denotes name listing only.  
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

**OBITUARIES****Chogel, Herbert**

Chogel, Herbert Lawrence, 95, of West Hartford passed away early Monday morning (February 28, 2022). Born November 2nd, 1926 in Hartford, Connecticut, Herb was the son of Benjamin and Anna (Anuta) Chogel, who emigrated with their daughter Ria from Russia in the early 1920's.

Herb enlisted in the Navy as a teenager and remained in the service his entire professional life, from October 1944 to August 1976, retiring as Aviation Ordanceman Chief Petty Officer. He served his country in several wars and was awarded medals of honor and commendations for his service.

Following his retirement, Herb moved to West Hartford to help his sister Ria care for their mother. Herb moved in with their mom and stayed with her until her passing. Following his mother's death, Herb remained in town and volunteered well into his eighties at the Health and Rehabilitation Center in West Hartford. He was robust until only a few months ago and sharp of mind until the very end.

He leaves his niece, Sherry Haller, and grand niece and nephew Arielle and Yoni and David Silverstone, Sherry's former husband and dear friend. Sherry extends her heartfelt thanks to Dr. Emily Ryan and all of the emergency and palliative staff at St. Francis Hospital whose loving care and attention helped greatly in his final days and hours.

Most especially, love and gratitude are extended to Dr. Ava Pannullo, MD, Herb's gerontologist for many years and her assistant Star, and his cardiovascular doctor, Dr. Patrick Corcoran. Their care and support helped ensure the highest quality of life for Herb.

To the many family and friends who were so supportive and helpful to him and his family these last months, words cannot express how much your help meant. Many thanks to David Tatem, who was "on call" to help with any IT issues Herb faced, David Raisner, owner of Herb's apartment building, who generously helped Sherry organize a move to a beautiful first floor apartment; and, cousin Pattie Haller, friends Judie Jacobson and Dianne Scaringe who sent unconditional hugs and support whenever needed.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary. A graveside service will be held on Friday, March 4, 2:00 p.m. at the State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane in Middletown, CT. For further information or to sign the guest book for Herb, please visit online at [www.weinsteinmortuary.com](http://www.weinsteinmortuary.com).

Contributions in Herb Chogel's memory may be made to or to a charity of the giver's choosing.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Garofalo, Mary (Santa-Donato)**

Mary "Chickie" Garofalo, beloved wife of Anthony "Sonny" Garofalo of Manchester, entered into eternal rest on February 26, 2022. Mary is predeceased by her birth mother, Mary Simpkin, father, Joseph Santa-Donato, and loving step-mother, Mary Librandi Santa-Donato. She is survived by her husband; her daughter, Catherine Long and husband Frank Long and their children Kevin, Brandon, Joshua, Brittany; her grandson, Frank Provencher, his partner Kacie Dolloff, and son Cadyn; her son Stephen Garofalo and partner Jennifer Wright; and her son Michael Garofalo, wife Shonni Enelow, and their son Raphael. While raising her family, Mary had many business adventures with her husband, including an egg farm, which provided countless family stories. In her 50s, she returned to school, ultimately graduating from the UCONN School of Social Work. She worked in addition recovery for more than 10 years. Faith was important to Mary, and she was part of communities at The Catholic Bookstore, St. Bridget and St. James Parishes, while also serving as Eucharistic Minister to the homebound and as a Spiritual Director. Mary will be remembered for radiating love and filling all around her with warmth and care. A memorial Mass will be offered at St Bridget Church in Manchester at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Catholic Relief Services.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Jaffee, Theodore H.**

Theodore H. Jaffee, 82, of Boynton Beach, Florida died from Covid on February 25, 2022. Born in Brooklyn, NY he was the son of the late Abraham and Sadie Jaffee. Ted was a resident of Florida for the past 37 years. A compassionate and loving father and grandfather, he was also an avid golfer and a card shark! He is survived by his wife Sherry Paul of Boynton Beach, FL, his daughter Sharon Neubieser and her husband Jack of Southington, CT, his son Scott Jaffee of Anchorage, AK, his sister Michelle Kletter of Maryland and beloved grandchildren, Ryan, Jared, Jack, Sydney, Morgan, Carter, Julia, Catherine, Ben and Jocelyn. A big beautiful blended family. Funeral Services will be held Sunday March 6, 2022 at the Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home, 543 George St, New Haven, CT at 10AM, immediately followed by a military burial at The Temple Beth Shalom Cemetery, Alling St in Hamden, A Lunch will follow celebrating Ted's life at Portofino's Restaurant 246 New Britain Road, Berlin, CT. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Ted's memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma, OK 73123. To sign an on-line registry book or to leave a message of condolence, please visit: [www.shurefuneralhome.com](http://www.shurefuneralhome.com)

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**OBITUARIES****Sullivan, Joanne M. (Osowiecki)**

Joanne M. (Osowiecki) Sullivan, 83, lifelong resident of Suffield, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on March 1. She joins in eternal rest her beloved husband of over 60 years, Daniel F. Sullivan, Jr., and their adoring grandson, Joe Sullivan. Born August 30, 1938, the eldest daughter of the late Joseph and Nellie (Backiel) Osowiecki, Joanne was Suffield's Sweetheart from the very beginning, voted by her high school classmates as Most Popular, Most Ambitious, and Class Flirt (although she only had eyes for her Danny, whom she married in 1958). She returned the love of her hometown through first served as Secretary to Suffield's First Selectman and the CT House Minority Leader, and then launched her own political career, winning elections to the Suffield Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen, and had the highest vote total in a town election. She was honored for her lifelong service with the Republican of the Year award in 2012.

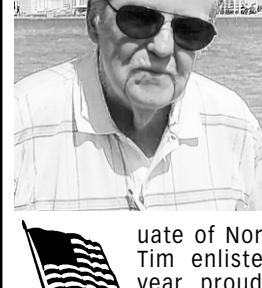
Joanne was also a huge part of the Suffield business community, and was a Founding Member of the Suffield Chamber of Commerce. Many Suffield residents will remember her for helping them buy or sell their home, as she was the co-owner of Chestnut Oak Associates and a top listing agent for decades. The charities and community organizations Joanne served and supported over the years include all Suffield Youth Sports, Suffield Women's Club, Suffield Retirement Commission, Friends of Hilltop Farm, and the Suffield Community Center. She joined a community mission to Haiti to provide dental care to impoverished residents of that nation. Joanne also served as a Justice of the Peace since 1975, presiding over many local weddings and letting everyone who would listen know that she had "married" over a hundred people.

But more than for any of those remarkable accomplishments, Joanne will always be remembered as the matriarch of the Sullivan family, our "Nanny," our biggest fan, our best friend, our confidante, our travel buddy, and our heart and soul. She is survived by her five voting sons, Brian (wife Linda), Mark, Dan, David, and Corey (wife Betsy); eleven grandchildren, Brian Patrick, Josh, Kallie, Danny, Tara, Jamie, Sean, Katie, McKenzie, Robert, and Eric; and six great-grandchildren, Neil, Finn, Raegan, Ashton, Bella, and Cameron. Joanne is also survived by her loving brother, Butch, and sister, Janet.

Joanne will be dearly missed by her family and the town she loved so well, but her legacy will live on in the kindness and love we show to one another, and in the service and good work we provide to our community. The Funeral Services will be on Tuesday, March 8 at 10:00AM from The Heritage Funeral Home with a Mass of Christian in Sacred Heart Church, Suffield at 11:00AM. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Suffield. Calling Hours will be on Monday, March 7 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM and 5:00 – 7:00 PM at Heritage Funeral Home, 1240 Mountain Road, West Suffield.

In Lieu of Flowers: Memorial Donations may be made to the Suffield Rotary Club, PO Box 283, Suffield, CT 06078. Online condolences please visit: [www.SuffieldFuneralHome.com](http://www.SuffieldFuneralHome.com)

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Scanlon, Timothy**

Timothy P. Scanlon, 93, of Plainville, passed away peacefully on Monday February 28, 2022. He was the husband of Janet (Rodier) Scanlon, with whom he shared 41 years of marriage.

Born in Lawrence, MA on October 17, 1928, he was one of four children to the late Patrick and Mary (Walsh) Scanlon. Raised and educated in Lowell, he was a 1950 graduate of Northeastern University in Boston.

Tim enlisted in U.S. Army the following year, proudly serving his country for two years during the Korean Conflict. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, he accepted a position with the FBI, working in Washington, DC before moving to Connecticut in 1960. He enjoyed all of the outdoor activities that New England had to offer, including fishing and target shooting, and made frequent visits to Cabela's, adding to his impressive gun collection. Tim retired from Amodio / North American Van Lines after enjoying close to 40 years on the open road. A voracious reader, Tim was always looking to expand his already vast amount of knowledge, and was never shy to share his thoughts and fun facts on topics that he learned about. Remembered for his sense of humor and willingness to share a joke or story with anyone nearby, Tim will be missed dearly, leaving his family with many cherished memories.

In addition to his wife Janet, he leaves his daughter Pamela Denis and her partner Tom Jenkins; his step-children Jim Tufts and his wife Christina and Jerrilyn Ciotti and her husband Robert; his sister Patricia Lyons; his grandchildren, Mack Litke, his wife Lyndsey and their children Brooks and Blayne, Brett Litke and his fiancée Caitlyn Shaw; Robert Ciotti, Jr. his fiance Kim and their daughter Reighley, Kevin Ciotti and Justin Ciotti; along with many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Virginia; his brother Thomas and his sister Margaret Brien.

A graveside service with military honors will be held and announced in the spring. The staff at Plainville Funeral Home extends their gratitude to the Scanlon family for their trust. For future service information and online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

PLAINVILLE

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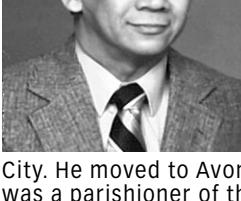
**Guglietta, Judith (McGarry)**

Judith McGarry Guglietta, 85, of West Hartford, Connecticut passed away on February 28, 2022. She was born July 8, 1936 in New London, the daughter of Raymond McGarry and Ann Cavanaugh McGarry. She attended primary and secondary school in New London and received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut.

She was a fabulous cook, and enjoyed reading, playing golf, doing puzzles, watching movies and especially loved her chocolate! She was a wonderful, selfless mother, who did everything she could to care for and support her children throughout her life. She is survived by two daughters, Ann Parizo and her husband Kevin of West Hartford, CT and their 3 sons, Michael, Mikel and Isaiah, and Patricia Guglietta of Milton, MA and her two children, Anthony and Rosemary. She was predeceased by her son, Joseph Guglietta, her sister, Mary Stuart and her brother, Raymond McGarry. The family gives special thanks to the caring staff at Brookdale Senior Living in West Hartford, especially to her loving caregivers, Celeste and Sasha. There will be no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, March 14th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 183 Church St., Newington. Burial will be private. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington is serving her family. To share a memory or condolence, please visit us at [www.duksa.net](http://www.duksa.net).

DUKSA

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**Koe, Joe Kian**

Joe Kian Koe, 93, of Avon, beloved husband of An Kiat (Gan) Koe, passed away Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at his home surrounded by his family. Born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, he earned his master's degree in electrical engineering before moving to the United States in 1966 where he began his career with Otis Elevator Company in New York City.

He moved to Avon in 1978 and retired in 1992. Joe was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Ann, Avon and enjoyed listening to "Big Band" music. Besides his wife An, he leaves his daughter Michelle Page and her husband Charles of West Simsbury, and granddaughters Samantha and Alyssa Page. His family will receive friends Sunday, March 6, 2022, from 3-5 PM at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday, March 7, 2022, 11 AM directly at the Church of Saint Ann, 289 Arch Road, Avon. Burial will follow in St. Ann Cemetery, Avon. Contributions may be made to the Church of Saint Ann, 289 Arch Road, Avon. For directions or condolences please visit [www.carmonfuneral-home.com](http://www.carmonfuneral-home.com).

CARMON

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**Marcinczyk, Edward Stanley Jr**

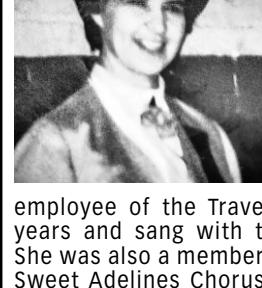
Edward Stanley Marcinczyk Jr., 78, of Plainville, passed away on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at the Hospital of Central CT. Born in New Britain, son of the late Edward S. Marcinczyk and Pauline (Domijan) Marcinczyk, he graduated from New Britain High School. He was a resident of Plainville for over 50 years and worked at SNET for 30 years. He was a US Army veteran and US Army Reservist. Edward was a life time member at New Britain Elks and avid Yankee fan. He loved to spend his free time fishing, golfing and bowling.

A loving father, grandfather and brother, he is survived by his daughter, Kimberly C. Marcinczyk of Plainville; his son, Edward S. Marcinczyk III (TR) of Newington; his grandson, Evan J. Marcinczyk of Newington; his sister, Claudia Marcinczyk of S. Glastonbury; his brother, Paul Marcinczyk of Southington; several nieces and nephews, his former wife, Mary Ann Marcinczyk of Rocky Hill and his beloved pet dog, Buttercup.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Saturday, March 5, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Burritt Hill, 332 Burritt St., New Britain with Prayer Service at 2 pm. He will be laid to rest at Sacred Heart Cemetery privately. In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to CT Human Society, 701 Russell Rd, Newington, CT 06111. To share a message of sympathy with his family, please visit us at [www.duksa.net](http://www.duksa.net).

DUKSA

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**Stechholz, Almeda**

Almeda Anna Louise Stechholz, born September 10, 1922 in Manchester CT passed away on Feb 28, 2022 in Manchester CT.

Almeda was born to Rev. Hugo and Louise (Breisch) Stechholz. She attended Manchester schools and graduated from South Manchester Highschool class of 1940. She was an employee of the Travelers Insurance Co. for over 40 years and sang with the Travelers employee chorus.

She was also a member of the Mt. Laurel chapter of the Sweet Adelines Chorus for many years. She advanced her piano skills by studying under Watson Morrison of the Hartford School of Music. Almeda was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church of Manchester where she taught Sunday school for 40 years.

Almeda is survived by her sister Sylvia Stechholz of Manchester, a niece Claudia Chiaro of Griffith, Indiana and nephews, Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz of Detroit, MI, and Jon Stechholz of East Islip, NY, Dennis Stechholz of Manchester and their families.

She was predeceased by her brothers, Rev. Erwin Stechholz and Ewald Stechholz, and a sister Pauline White.

A funeral service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 112 Cooper Street in Manchester on March 7th at 10 am.

Memorial donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church.

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## OBITUARIES

**Justo, Gilbert F. "Gil"**

Gilbert "Gil" Francisco Justo, 90, of Granby, beloved husband for 36 years of the late Gloria Marie (Mundell) Justo, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford on December 5, 1931, son of the late Adelino F. and Celeste (Vincent) Justo, he was raised in Hartford and was a graduate of Hartford Public High School, Class of 1949.

After high school, he worked as a butcher before enlisting in the US Army. He served during the Korean War and was trained as a cook. After his honorable discharge as a Corporal, he returned to Hartford and eventually moved to Granby in 1966 where he raised his four children. Gil owned and operated Village Bakery in Simsbury for 18 years before opening Grampa's Bakery in Granby which he ran for six years until his retirement. After closing the bakery, he took a position with the Center City Churches Soup Kitchen in Hartford where he worked as a cook for 10 years and he also volunteered for Trinity Episcopal Church's Picnic in the Park program. Gil was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing, especially for trout, in the local rivers and streams. As a young man, Gil learned ballroom dancing and loved to dance with his sisters and later in life with his wife and daughters at weddings and parties. He also enjoyed woodworking and was a naturally skilled craftsman. Gil loved to sing and after a while he also took up yodeling and could be heard rehearsing and perfecting his skill while he worked away in the bakery. A long-time Granby resident, Gil had a bowling team for his bakery which he participated in for several years, he sponsored a women's softball team named the Scorpions for eight years, and he was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Tariffville. Proud of his military service, Gil was an active member of Shannon-Shattuck Post #182, American Legion in Granby where he had served as the post's Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms. He leaves four children, Jayne Keenan and her husband Joseph of West Granby, James Seery and his wife Margaret of Granby, Jennifer Miller and her husband Robert of New Marlborough, MA, and Joan Burkhardt and her husband Ronald of Granby; a brother-in-law, Armand DaCunha of Wethersfield; a sister-in-law, Vera Justo of Wethersfield; 13 grandchildren, Michael Seery and his wife Lynn of Bristol, Morgan Delton and her husband Paul of West Granby, Naomi Wimer and her husband Michael of South Hadley, MA, Justin Keenan of Windsor Locks, Theresa Smith and her husband Zachary of East Hartland, Gloria Seery of West Suffield, Rebecca Mason and her husband John of West Suffield, Bill Seery and his wife Jessica of West Suffield, Elizabeth Dean and her husband Jordan of New Marlborough, MA, Katherine Miller of Boston, MA, Jordon Stuber of Great Barrington, MA, Alexandra Cruz and her husband Sammy of North Granby, and Ronald Burkhardt, III and his fiancé, Kassandra Melkey of Albany, NY; 16 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Besides his wife, he was predeceased by two brothers, Adelino and George Justo; and two sisters, Celeste Nunes and Jean DaCunha. His family will receive friends on Sunday, March 6, 2-5 p.m., at the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby. A funeral service will be held on Monday, March 7, 11 a.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11 Church St., Tariffville. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Granby Cemetery, Granby. Memorial donations may be made to the Shannon-Shattuck Post #182, American Legion, P.O. Box 182, Granby, CT 06035 or to Foodshare, 450 Woodland Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002. For online condolences please visit, [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com).



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**Selden, Cheryl**

Cheryl (Bogue) Selden, 74, of Higganum, died Tuesday February 22, 2022, at Apple Rehab Center, Middletown. Cheryl was born in Queens, NY, daughter of the late, Leighton and Marie (Danek) Bogue. Prior to her retirement Cheryl was employed with Middlesex Hospital as a CNA. Cheryl was a longtime volunteer with Haddam Ambulance.

Cheryl is survived by two sons, Jeffrey and Chris Buschendorf both of Higganum, two grandchildren Brandon and Scott Buschendorf.

Funeral services were privately held. To share memories or express condolences online please visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

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**Connors, Kathryn (Kasmarzyk)**

Kathryn (Kasmarzyk) Connors, 84, of Rocky Hill, beloved widow of Gerald Connors for 47 years, passed away peacefully at Hartford Hospital on February 28, 2022 with her family by her side. Born September 9, 1937 in Hartford, to Stanley and Wanda Kasmarzyk. Kay spent her younger years growing up in Newington, she moved to Hartford and attended Hartford Public High School. Kay and Jerry brought up their family in Rocky Hill. Kay's family was her greatest joy; she was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Kay enjoyed spending time with family and friends at their second homes in Woodstock and Madison. Kay and Jerry traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean. Kay was a stylish dresser and loved to shop. She is survived by her four children; daughter, Kathy and her husband Donald Griswold of Wethersfield, daughter, Arlene Connors of Rocky Hill, son, Michael Connors of Newington and son, Brian Connors of Rocky Hill. Five cherished grandchildren; Kimberly Kelly and husband Brendan, Kevin Griswold and wife Alyssa, McKenzie Connors, Kiley Connors, Katie Connors and two very special great grandchildren; Cameron Kelly and Connor Kelly. Kay also leaves behind very special brothers and sisters; Robert and wife Terry Kasmarzyk of Maryland, Nancy Gorski of Vernon and William and wife Susan Kasmarzyk of South Windsor. Kay was predeceased by her daughter-in-law Drieu-Ann Connors. A Funeral Service will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 11a.m. From the BROOKLAWN Funeral Home, 511 Brook St. Rocky Hill, interment will follow in Rose Hill Cemetery, Rocky Hill. Family and friends are invited to the funeral home on Monday from 10-11a.m. Donations in memory of Kay may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. For online guestbook please visit [www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com](http://brooklawnfuneralhome.com).

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**Gallo, Concettina**

Concettina Gallo, 93, of West Hartford, beloved wife of Umberto Gallo for 68 years, passed away on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Born on June 13, 1928 in Palazzolo Acreide in Sicily, Italy, daughter of Santo and Lidia Leone. Concettina was a devout Catholic and made many personal sacrifices for her children and grandchildren. You life story without speaking of she had with her husband. The love they felt for each other was palpable. Along with being a great mother, Concettina was an excellent cook, always making homemade food from scratch and never having a guest leave the house on an empty stomach. She loved taking care of her family, laughing and spending time with her grandchildren, which she absolutely adored.

She leaves behind her sons, Frank and wife Pat, Bruce and wife Lori and their three children Anthony, Dominic, and Brianna, along with relatives from the Gallo, Leone, Galli, Izzo, and Hinckley families. Our family would like to express special thanks to her caregiver Iwona, who treated our mother as her own and with such love and affection.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, March 7th at 11:00 am at Saint Patrick Church, Farmington. Entombment will be at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. The Mass will also celebrate the life of Umberto Gallo, who was unable to have a Mass of Christian Burial due to COVID restrictions. Online condolences may be made at [www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com](http://www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com)

Sheehan Hilborn Breen  
FUNERAL HOME

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**Shores, Frederick R.**

Frederick R. Shores, 86, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully with his wife, Pam, by his side on March 2, 2022, at his home. Calling Hours will be at Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield on Sunday, March 6, 2022 from 2:00 - 4:00pm. The Funeral Service will be at the Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect Street at 8:45am

Monday, March 7, 2022. Please go directly to the Church. Burial will follow with Full Military Honors at the State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown. For the full obituary, please see [www.farleysullivan.com](http://www.farleysullivan.com)

Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

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\* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

**Gonzales, Louis**

April 21, 1929-February 20, 2022  
Louis J. Gonzales of Cromwell, Connecticut passed away on Sunday, February 20, 2022. He was born in Pittsfield, MA on April 21, 1929, the son of the late Louis P. and Elizabeth H. Gonzales. Known as "Johnny" by his family and friends in his early year, he graduated from Pittsfield High School in June 1947. During his teens he played baseball and basketball as a member of Tyler Aces teams. Shortly after graduation he enlisted in the United States Air Force, beginning a 27 year military career, culminating in his retirement in August 1974 as a Chief Master Sergeant. He earned many awards and decorations for his distinguished service including two Meritorious Service medals and five Air Force Commendation medals. During his military career he accumulated an impressive array of secondary education credits by attending night school and completing college extension courses offered by various universities. Following retirement, he completed his education by attending McKendrie College in Lebanon, Illinois graduating with honors in May 1975. He then settled in Connecticut and began a second career as a bank examiner with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, retiring again in March 1996. He was a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association and, an avid golfer as a member of the Tallwood Men's Club in Hebron, Connecticut and the Central Connecticut Golf Association. He was predeceased by his wife Leona "Lee" Madeux. He is survived by his daughters, Wendy A Gonzales of New Bedford, Massachusetts and Jane E Kelly of Cranston, Rhode Island; step-daughters, Laurie Pellegren of Moodus Connecticut and Lisa Madeux of Centerville, Massachusetts; his brother, Gregory A. Gonzales and wife Sharon of Chicopee, Massachusetts; sister Mary A Stewart and husband Larry of Pittsfield, Massachusetts; and grandchildren Amber Brookman, her husband Ryan and their children Shawn and MJ, Alex Pellegren and his wife Alyse and James Pellegren and his partner Aubrey Karg. He was predeceased by his sisters Regina Enright and Dolores I Kolbasook. Arrangements are being handled by the Devanny-Condon Funeral Home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. There are no viewing hours and funeral services are private. Burial will be in Pittsfield at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

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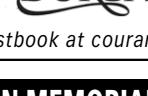
**Niedzwiecki, Leocadia**

Leocadia (Lucy) A. (Koziatek) Niedzwiecki, 94, of New Britain, passed away on Sunday, February 27, 2022. She was beloved wife of the late Frank A. Niedzwiecki. Lucy was a lifelong member of Holy Cross Church, New Britain. She was a member of DAV Auxiliary, Holy Cross Woman's Auxiliary and Polish National Alliance (PNA).

A loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother, she is survived by her sons: MSG John Niedzwiecki and his partner Charlotte DeBoer and David J. Niedzwiecki Sr and his wife Wendy Brown; her daughter Christine O'Brien and her husband John; 12 Grandchildren, 28 Great-Grandchildren and 3 Great Great Grandchildren and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Frank, daughters: Karen Tricka and Annette Niedzwiecki, brothers: Frank Olander and Henry Olander and sisters: Estelle Borysewicz and Rose Feeney.

Family would like to extend special thanks to: Selva Custovic who not only took care of, but became a loving friend to Lucy in Connecticut, LaJoyce, Joanne, and Neil Polley who provided friendly loving care to Leocadia in AZ and Thema Hospice of Phoenix AZ who not only took care of her needs but did it with personnel care.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Sunday, March 6, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Burritt Hill, 332 Burritt St., New Britain. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, March 7 at 10:00 AM at Holy Cross Church, New Britain. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery. To share a message of sympathy with his family, please visit us at [www.duksa.net](http://www.duksa.net)



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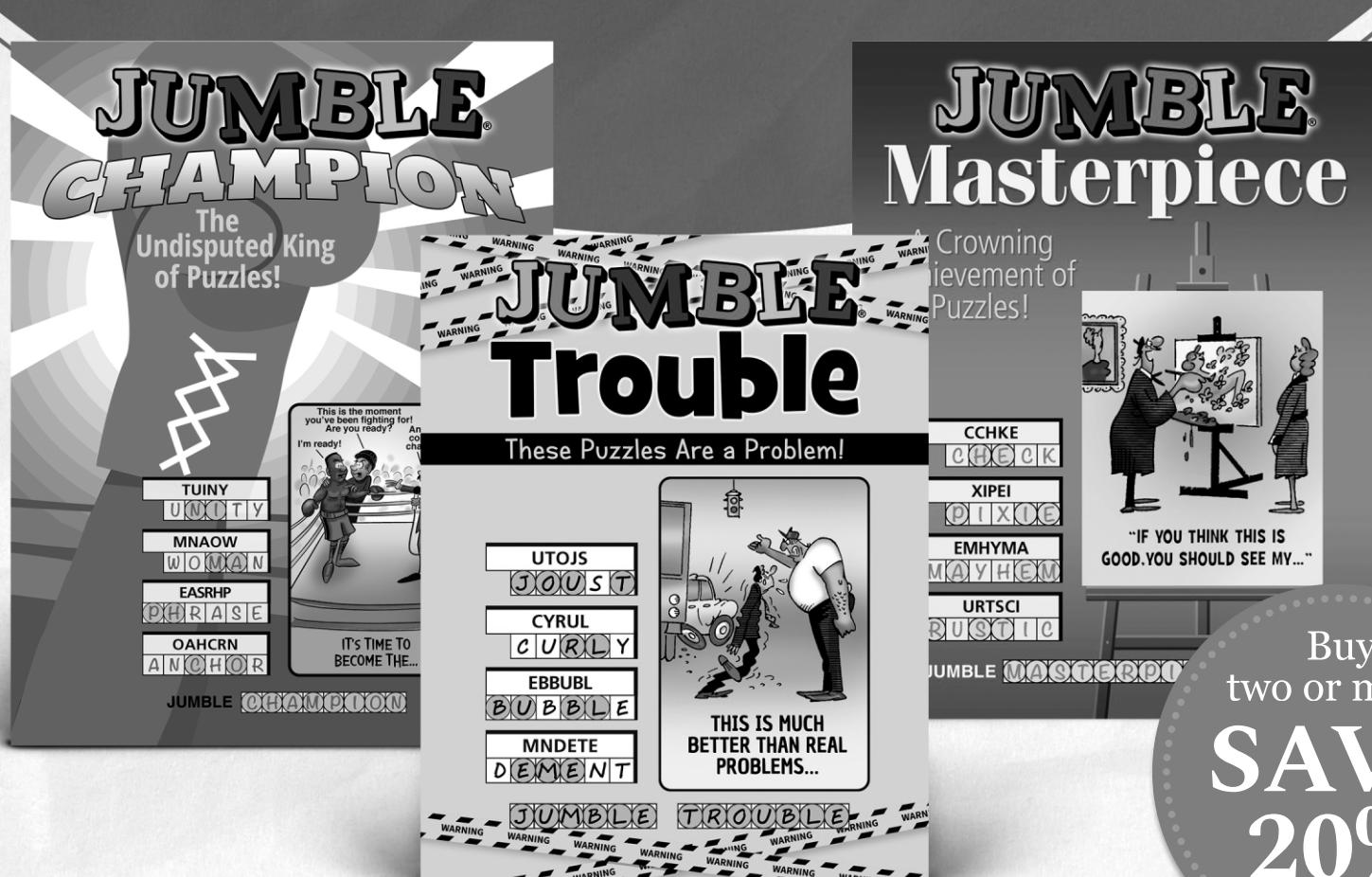
You left for heaven in 2015. The time continues to go slowly since your death, and your presence is sorely missed by all who knew you. You were a caring, passionate wife, mother, teacher and friend, but also a blessing of love. You are missed by friends, and family, especially your husband of forty-eight years, Paul.

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## Ex-East Hartford cop files federal lawsuit

She says she was fired due to age, sex discrimination

By Jesse Leavenworth

Hartford Courant

A former East Hartford police officer who was fired after her arrest in a domestic violence case is suing the police chief and

town in federal court, contending discrimination and unfair treatment because of her age and sex.

In the suit filed Tuesday, Lisa Freeman claims denial of due process and equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Freeman, 54, was terminated in 2020 after her arrest on since-dismissed charges of disorderly conduct and third-degree crimi-

nal mischief. The warrant for her arrest said her on-again, off-again boyfriend told police that she broke a window at his Bolton house on March 5 then took off. The unidentified man said Freeman had pounded on his door, but he did not answer "as he didn't want any issues," the arrest warrant affidavit said.

The man said he and Freeman had been dating for about seven years through frequent breakups and reconciliations and

he did not want to press charges, telling police that Freeman had broken things in the past "and has been hauled away for it," the arrest warrant affidavit said.

After the arrest, the police department put the 26-year veteran on administrative duty pending an internal investigation. She was terminated on April 27, 2020, for viola-

**Turn to Lawsuit, Page 2**



Arianna Gordon, of Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, chops strawberries for her team in the CT ProStart Invitational teen cooking challenge. SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

## Competition cooks up scholarships for teens

Winning team receives culinary school reward

By Susan Dunne

Hartford Courant

**M**ore than 40 Connecticut high school students gathered Wednesday at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford, to compete in the 16th annual CT ProStart Invitational, a contest that rewards the winning team with scholarships to culinary schools.

Would the winner be one of Enfield High's teams with

seared lamb chops or their curry katsu? Windsor High's pork tenderloin? Wilbur Cross High's chicken breast with kalamata olive roulade? Fitch High's pan-roasted Stonington monkfish?

The young chefs had to prepare, cook, plate and serve their three-course meals in 80 minutes, without electricity. All cooking was done on BTU burners, two burners per team.

"It's high-end foods, but on a camp stove. It's like

**Turn to Cooking, Page 2**



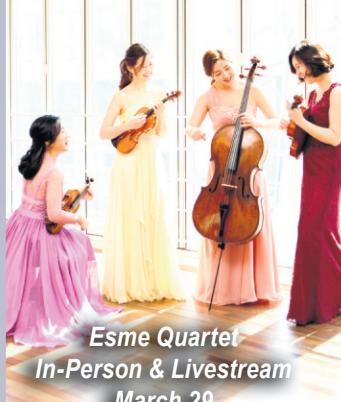
Wilbur Cross High School won the competition with a three-course dinner of pan-seared red snapper, chicken breast on Mediterranean couscous and a chocolate dessert.



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# Waterbury man guilty of sexual exploitation

Yehudi Manzano faces at least 5 years in prison

**By Edmund H. Mahony**  
Hartford Courant

A Waterbury man pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to a charge involving the sexual exploitation of a minor.

According to information presented in court, Yehudi Manzano is accused of video taping himself while involved in sexual activity with an underage

girl and storing the images in a digital photo account. He pleaded guilty to one count of transportation of child pornography.

Manzano was arrested on eight related state charges in 2016 and charged federally two years later. The state charges are still pending, according to state court records.

Manzano faces at least five years in prison on the federal charge when he is sentenced on May 25, according to federal officials.

Manzano is free on a \$300,000 bond pending sentencing.



Startup Avelo Airlines has started using autonomous sanitizing robots on its aircraft to stop the spread of COVID-19. **BRUCE SNYDER / AVELO AIRLINES**

## Officials: In emergency, plane lands on city beach

**By Christine Dempsey**

Hartford Courant

A pilot safely guided a plane to a Bridgeport beach Wednesday in an apparent emergency landing, city officials said.

No one was injured when the single-engine Cessna landed on Seaside Park's West Beach about 4:50 p.m., they said. No property was damaged, and no hazardous materials leaked from the plane. The plane itself also did not appear to have substantial damage.

Bridgeport emergency communications received a call from a worker in the Sikorsky Airport tower at 4:49 p.m. The worker said the tower had lost contact with the pilot, the plane's sole occupant, said Scott Appleby, the city's director of emergency management.

Moments later, the Bridgeport

911 center received multiple calls from residents who said a plane had landed on West Beach, officials said.

"We're grateful the pilot was able to do what seems to be all the right things and had the ability to land on the beach away from residential areas safely," Mayor Joe Ganim said. "I also want to recognize that all response efforts from each coordinating city department during this incident were handled quickly and properly — and that we can report no injuries, no damages."

It wasn't clear Thursday why the plane landed on the beach. The incident is under investigation by the NTSB/FAA, the city said, and "no further information can be provided at this time."

*Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.*

### Robots

*from Page 1*

and more effective. The benefit extends well beyond COVID — the UVC light destroys 99.9% of all pathogens, including — but not limited to — COVID-19."

Olson said Avelo now has two of the robots, one at Tweed-New Haven and the other at its West Coast base in Los Angeles. In addition to cabins, the robot, called "RAY," is used at the end of each day in galleys, lavatories, flight decks and terminal spaces.

Avelo declined to disclose the cost of the robots.

"We are excited to be on the leading edge of helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses among the flying public," Andrew Levy, Avelo's chairman and chief executive, said. "RAY is safer, faster, more cost effective and [a] more sustainable solution than the conventional chemical-based manual disinfection process used by most airlines."

The robot can be operated remotely by one flight crew member, far faster than manually-operated sanitizing equipment.

Bloomberg Businessweek reported that the Aero HygenX also has provided the robots to the Deutsche Lufthansa airline.

With no worldwide rules on sanitizing aircraft, airlines, Bloomberg reported, have adopted a patchwork of disinfecting measures, from spraying chemicals on surfaces to manually operated units that use ultraviolet light.

Avelo now offers service from Tweed-New Haven to six destinations in Florida and, in early May, will add service to Charleston and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Nashville, Tennessee, and Savannah, Georgia.

*Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.*

### Cooking

*from Page 1*

glamping," said Madison Bohan, captain of one of the teams from Enfield.

Her team made arancini with prosciutto; lamb chops with duchess potatoes; and crepes with whipped cream, cheese filling, strawberries and chocolate.

The contest has two categories. Culinary teams' meals were judged on taste, creativity, safety and sanitation.

Restaurant management teams are judged on restaurant concept, menu, organization, layout and design, marketing and cost analysis.

In the end, students at Wilbur Cross High in New Haven were the big winners. All members of its culinary team — Arianna Gordon, Daisy Lucero, Antonio Mandania, Natalie Quiroz

and Christopher Ramirez — will be offered scholarships to Culinary Institute of America, Culinary Institute of Virginia or Louisiana Culinary Institute. Its management team — Charlotte Buterbaugh, Jailyn Delgado and Rosemary Rodriguez — won first place, too.

The event is presented by Connecticut Restaurant Association (CRA) and its nonprofit arm, Connecticut Hospitality Educational Foundation (CHEF). It began in 2006 and was not held last year because of the pandemic.

The first-place teams also advance to the National ProStart Invitational, to be held in Washington, D.C. on May 6 to 8. The winners of the national competition also will be offered scholarships to culinary schools.

Scott Dolch, president and CEO of CRA, called the ProStart program, which has 1,000 participants in high schools statewide, "one of the most important things we do."

"If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we've got to get our workforce back," he said. "This program is so important to where we need to go. These kids are learning skills they will take with them past high school."

Aliah Acosta-Mercado, captain of the Windsor High team, called the contest "a great learning experience."

"This was our first year. We learned a lot that we'll bring back next time," she said.

The judges are among some of the state's top chefs and restaurateurs, including Xavier Santiago from The Place 2 Be, Matt Storch from MATCH, Kristin Eddy from Millwrights and Scott Miller from DORO Restaurant Group.

*Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.*

### Shooting

*from Page 1*

brothers, Leon Kelley and Charles Kelley, inside 161 Westminster St. last week.

According to police statistics, Hartford saw a 55% increase in gun violence, including both fatal and nonfatal shootings, from 2019 to 2020, followed by a 14% decrease from 2020 to 2021.

In all, the city recorded 461 shootings, 63 of which were fatal, between Jan. 1, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2021, more than most comparable

cities in the region.

Mayor Luke Bronin listed 10 possible ways to stop the gun violence at a virtual town hall meeting Saturday. The "initial recommendations" include an increased focus on "very high-risk" individuals, more reentry support for people who have been convicted of crimes, expanded mental health interventions and an improvement in solve rates for both fatal and nonfatal shootings.

*Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.*

Late in 2007, she was demoted from lieutenant to officer and suspended for a week without pay after an internal investigation found she harassed a fellow officer and violated other department rules.

In February 2014, Freeman was arrested on charges of third-degree assault, second-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct for an incident that also happened in Bolton, police said at the time. She was accused of assaulting a man and damaging items in his home, police said. The disposition of the case could not be

determined.

Regarding her firing, Freeman contends in the suit that Chief Scott Sansom initiated a "false and dubious internal investigation against Plaintiff to use as a pretext to terminate her from her position." During the investigation, Lt. Joseph Ficacelli, also named as a defendant, "purposely ignored or refused to consider exculpatory or exonerating information, omitted or misstated facts and information in order to find against the plaintiff," the suit says.

Freeman's firing, the suit says,

"was based on impermissible considerations of her sex and age." She has suffered lost wages, health and pension time and benefits, "humiliation, emotional mental upset, loss of enjoyment in life and anxiety and physical damages, including loss of sleep, headaches, and continued irreparable harm to her reputation," the complaint says.

Freeman seeks compensatory and punitive damages.

*Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com*

### Lawsuit

*from Page 1*

tion of department rules that say, "No Officer shall engage in any personal conduct or act which, if brought to the attention of the public, could result in justified unfavorable criticism of that Officer or the Department. No Officer shall be involved personally in disturbances or Police incidents to his/her discredit."

The suit filed in U.S. District Court by attorney James Brewer

called the rule "vague" and "subject to bias." The complaint says the rule "was maliciously, arbitrarily and disproportionately administered against plaintiff," listing similar charges against other East Hartford male officers who were not fired.

Responding to a request for comment on the suit, police spokesman Lt. Josh Litwin noted that the state Department of Labor upheld Freeman's firing last year.

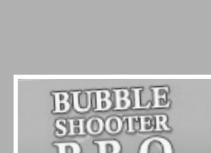
Freeman joined the department on Jan. 18, 1994 and rose to become head of the internal affairs office.

Regarding her firing, Freeman contends in the suit that Chief Scott Sansom initiated a "false and dubious internal investigation against Plaintiff to use as a pretext to terminate her from her position." During the investigation, Lt. Joseph Ficacelli, also named as a defendant, "purposely ignored or refused to consider exculpatory or exonerating information, omitted or misstated facts and information in order to find against the plaintiff," the suit says.

Freeman's firing, the suit says,

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## CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

# Connecticut's COVID-19 trajectory 'optimistic'

**By Alex Putterman**

Hartford Courant

All trends remain encouraging across Connecticut's COVID-19 metrics, state numbers show, as cases and hospitalizations continue to slow, though there also were 72 deaths in the past week.

COVID-19 remains present in Connecticut — as evidenced by more than 2,000 cases and the deaths, but in dramatically lower numbers than earlier this winter.

"Overall, the trajectory is optimistic," said Dr. David Banach, hospital epidemiologist at UConn Health. "Seeing declining cases over the last two months is encouraging."

Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, noted that cases and hospitalization are no longer decreasing as rapidly as they were a few weeks ago, even as they continue to decline.

"Still coming down but very slowly," Wu said. "It's up and down at this point, but it's overall down."

While Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers are far better than they were in December or January, they're not yet back to the lows recorded last summer, when transmission was, briefly, reduced to almost negligible levels.

Wu predicted the state could reach that low level by "late May," while Banach warned that some amount of COVID-19 transmission, even

during the summer, might be inevitable.

"We may find ourselves at a point where there is still going to be some ongoing transmission, and that speaks to the notion of this virus becoming endemic," Banach said. "So there may be some low-level transmission occurring, particularly in the spring and summer, and the possibility that could rise moving into next winter."

Banach cautioned that the arrival of a new variant could disrupt that trajectory at any point, as has happened several times in the past year.

## Cases, positivity rate

Connecticut has reported 2,447 cases out of 10,454 tests over the past week, for a positivity rate of 2.41% — the lowest during any seven-day period since early November.

Connecticut's average of 350 daily cases over the past week is down from more than 10,000 at one point last month and about even with where it stood before the state's fall surge began. Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

As of Thursday, only 23 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities remain in the state's "red alert" category, meaning they have averaged at least 15 daily cases per 100,000 residents over the past week.

Currently, Middletown is the Connecticut municipality with the highest rate of new COVID-19 cases, followed by Brooklyn, Old Lyme, New London and several other towns in the eastern half of the state.

Under the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidance, seven of Connecticut's eight counties — all but Middlesex — are recording "low" levels of COVID-19 transmission, meaning that masking is not considered necessary there.

## Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut had 171 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, down from 248 a week prior and the fewest at a time since Nov. 19.

Many of those patients, officials say, are "incidental" cases, meaning they were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival.

According to the state, 39.8% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated — a figure likely skewed by incidental cases. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

## Deaths

Connecticut reported 72 deaths over the past week on Thursday, bringing its total

during the pandemic to 10,515.

That total represented a decrease from the 119 deaths the state announced the week prior and the fewest in a seven-day span since before Christmas. COVID-19 deaths, which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks, have dipped in recent weeks, though not yet as sharply as cases and hospitalizations have.

The United States has now recorded 955,287 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

## Vaccinations

As of Thursday, 94% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 77.8% of all residents and 82% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 53.7% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Alex Putterman can be reached at [aputterman@courant.com](mailto:aputterman@courant.com).

# Murphy presses Biden on gun control

Connecticut senator asks for 'more urgency' from president

**By Colleen Long and Zeke Miller**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A leading Democratic senator is calling out President Joe Biden to show "more urgency" to address gun violence by executive action, as the prospects of legislation on Capitol Hill to pass gun control reforms remain slim.

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, who represented Newtown, Connecticut, when he was in the House at the time of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, told gun control advocates and gun violence survivors Wednesday that Biden needs to prioritize addressing so-called "ghost guns" — homemade firearms that lack serial numbers used to trace them and that are often purchased without a background check — and to nominate a leader for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"Because we are at a logjam in the United States Senate, it means that the burden on the administration to step up and take action is great," Murphy said. "This administration can do more, this administration should do more. And I think it's time to see some more urgency from the Biden Administration when it comes to the steps that they can take to save lives."

Homicides spiked in 2020 as the pandemic raged and millions of frustrated Americans were jobless, scared and angry.

Even before the spike, 75% of all homicides in the U.S. were due to firearm injuries and guns were responsible for 91% of all youth homicides.

Record numbers of U.S. residents are buying guns now. Law enforcement officers recovered historically high numbers of firearms last year and are coming across more



Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., speaks last December during a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. **ALEX BRANDON/AP**

last firearms stripped of serial numbers, making them impossible to trace.

Biden, like other Democratic presidents before him, has called on Congress to pass a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, though that talk diminished since he took office and tried to pass more achievable reforms.

Biden has pressed his administration to regulate ghost guns, which Murphy called "increasingly the weapon of choice by criminals in this country." But while the Justice Department has proposed new rules to crack down on them, the regulations haven't been finalized.

Biden hasn't named a new nominee to lead ATF since his first pick, a former ATF agent who worked for a gun control organization, was pulled after both Republicans and Democrats expressed concerns. And the

ghost guns initiative doesn't go far enough, Murphy said.

Biden is limited in what he can do; the most serious legislative effort failed, even after 20 children and six adults were massacred in the 2012 Newtown shooting.

Biden's efforts have centered on pushing out funding to help police do better at getting guns off the streets, sending in some federal agents to help beleaguered departments. The Justice Department is prioritizing gun cases that come from the "iron pipeline" on Interstate 95, where guns are trafficked up and down the Eastern seaboard.

But the lawmakers say there's more proactive action Biden can take from the White House.

"The administration can do more," said Murphy. "This is the time for them to do more."

# Man gets 8 years in case of child sex trafficking

**By Edmund H. Mahony**

Hartford Courant

Federal prosecutors said that an East Hartford man was sentenced to eight years in prison Wednesday in a child sex trafficking case.

Joseph Pina, 24, was accused of conspiring with an associate in 2019 to recruit, entice and transport a 16-year-old girl to engage in commercial sex acts, according to federal authorities. Specifically, on Oct. 17, 2019, Pina, his associate Joel Lindsay and another individual picked up the minor victim and took her to a hotel in East Windsor.

At the hotel, they took photographs of the minor victim and posted her photos on a website to advertise sexual services, according to federal authorities. Pina and Lindsay then arranged prostitution appointments involving the minor victim. The money was given to Lindsay, federal prosecutors said.

On Oct. 18, 2019, and the following two days, Pina and Lindsay posted more advertisements on a website and arranged prostitution appointments involving the minor victim at a hotel in Windsor Locks. The victim again gave all of the money to Lindsay, prosecutors said.

The investigation further revealed that Pina and Lindsay engaged in sexual activity with the minor victim, even though they knew that she was under the age of 18. The minor victim also reported to investigators that Lindsay physically assaulted her, prosecutors said.

On Oct. 6, 2021, Pina pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of a minor.

Pina, who had been released on bond, was remanded to custody at the conclusion of Wednesday's court proceeding.

On Oct. 15, 2021, Lindsay, also known as "Joey Guapo," pleaded guilty to one count of sex trafficking of a minor. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 13. Lindsay, a citizen of Jamaica, has been detained since arrest on Aug. 20, 2020, according to federal authorities.

# Wife of hockey coach charged with assault

Staff Report

A 47-year-old Guilford woman was charged after allegedly assaulting a high school student in the stands during the Southern Connecticut Conference girls hockey championship game between Guilford and West Haven/Sacred Heart at Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven, police said.

West Haven police said a verbal altercation took place during Friday's game between fans of the opposing teams. The argument quickly turned physical, and officers on scene attempted to intervene.

During this altercation it was discovered that Christina Binkowski, 47, had allegedly physically assaulted a West Haven High School student and the student required medical attention, police said. The wife of Guilford girls hockey coach Rick Binkowski was arrested and charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault.

According to multiple media reports, Binkowski is free on a \$1,000 bond and due in Superior Court in Milford on March 22.

"The West Haven Police Department and West Haven Board of Education will continue to promote a safe environment for our students, athletes and fans at all sporting events, and incidents of violence at our facilities will not be tolerated," the West Haven Police Department said in a statement.

## Waterbury man volunteers to fight for Ukraine

**By Ellen Moynihan and Leonard Greene**

New York Daily News

Officially, it's not their fight.

Their commander-in-chief insists he's not deploying troops to war-torn Ukraine, even as Russia's military siege intensifies. But to these Americans, freedom at home means nothing without freedom abroad, so they have signed up for another country's war half a world away.

Anything Dennis Diaz knows about Ukraine he read online or saw on television. He fought in Iraq. He fought in Afghanistan. But he fought under his flag. He had his nation's blessing.

This time he's answering a different call.

"I'm a Marine combat veteran, and not only that but as Americans we don't accept people getting bullied," said Diaz, 39, an entrepreneur from Waterbury, Conn.

"Somebody as big as Russia coming in to conquer Ukraine, that's just wrong."

Diaz was outside the Ukrainian Consulate in Midtown responding to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's call Sunday for the formation of an "international legion" to defend itself against Russian aggression.

Diaz was one of many American and Canadian soldiers volunteering for duty, even as their own governments sit this one out. Most, like Diaz, were inspired by Ukrainians' fierce resistance.

Many believe their democratic rights will be threatened at home if they do nothing to stand up in Europe.

"I have a lot of military experience," Diaz said. "I did go to Iraq and Afghanistan, so now it's time to go ahead and fight for what's right."

"I have some flight experience. Also, I was field artillery in the Marine Corps. Also I've got some experience driving tanks, enough to be a valuable asset to Ukraine."

Also enlisting is Christian Gonzalez, 35, of Yonkers, who calls the decision to fight side-by-side with the Ukrainians a "no-brainer."

What separates Gonzalez from war veterans such as Diaz is his level of military experience — he has none.

"Absolutely not," he said.

But what Gonzalez lacks in combat training, he makes up for in his commitment to



Dennis Diaz, of Waterbury, is volunteering to fight in Ukraine. **ELLEN MOYNIHAN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS**

more than 2,000 and the United Nations condemns the Kremlin.

In online groups, military veterans warned volunteers with no combat training they were heading into a showdown where inexperience could put themselves and others in danger.

But that did not stop Andrew Bennett, 45, a union carpenter from Bayonne, who said he was moved to enlist by Zelenskyy's emotional appeal. Zelenskyy has asked "every friend of Ukraine who wants to join Ukraine in defending the country" to "please come over," adding that they would be given weapons.

"Everyone who is defending Ukraine is a hero," he said.

Bennett said he couldn't resist.

"There've been other conflicts that we've been made aware of over the last few years, but for some reason this one is the most heart-tugging, soul-moving thing," said Bennett, who has no military experience.

"If you can do something, you should do something. I'm grateful for where I was born and raised, but you have to risk freedom for freedom."

Not all volunteers are looking for a fight. Some of the American enlistees are medics who want to help the wounded or humanitarian workers who want to help the displaced.

Thomas Harris appreciates their commitment, but he said he's ready for combat.

The former Marine machine-gunner filled out his application and was told the military attaché would be in contact within a couple of days. He said he still has his Kevlar armor from his time in the Marines. Harris said he considered joining the French Foreign Legion some time ago.

"And then this happened," said the 31-year-old from Harlem. "My dad was actually a Marine for 30 years. He doesn't like it at all, but he understands it. My mom is crying."

Diaz said his family is worried too.

"They're a little bit, I would say, scared," Diaz said. "This is absolutely a major war. They're really scared that I actually might not come back."

"But that is a sacrifice I am willing to make to help the people in Ukraine. They're doing the best they can, but they need the help."

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'THE BATMAN' ★★

# Low on light, high on dread

Matt Reeves' take on the Caped Crusader easily the best since 'The Dark Knight'

**By Michael Phillips**  
Chicago Tribune

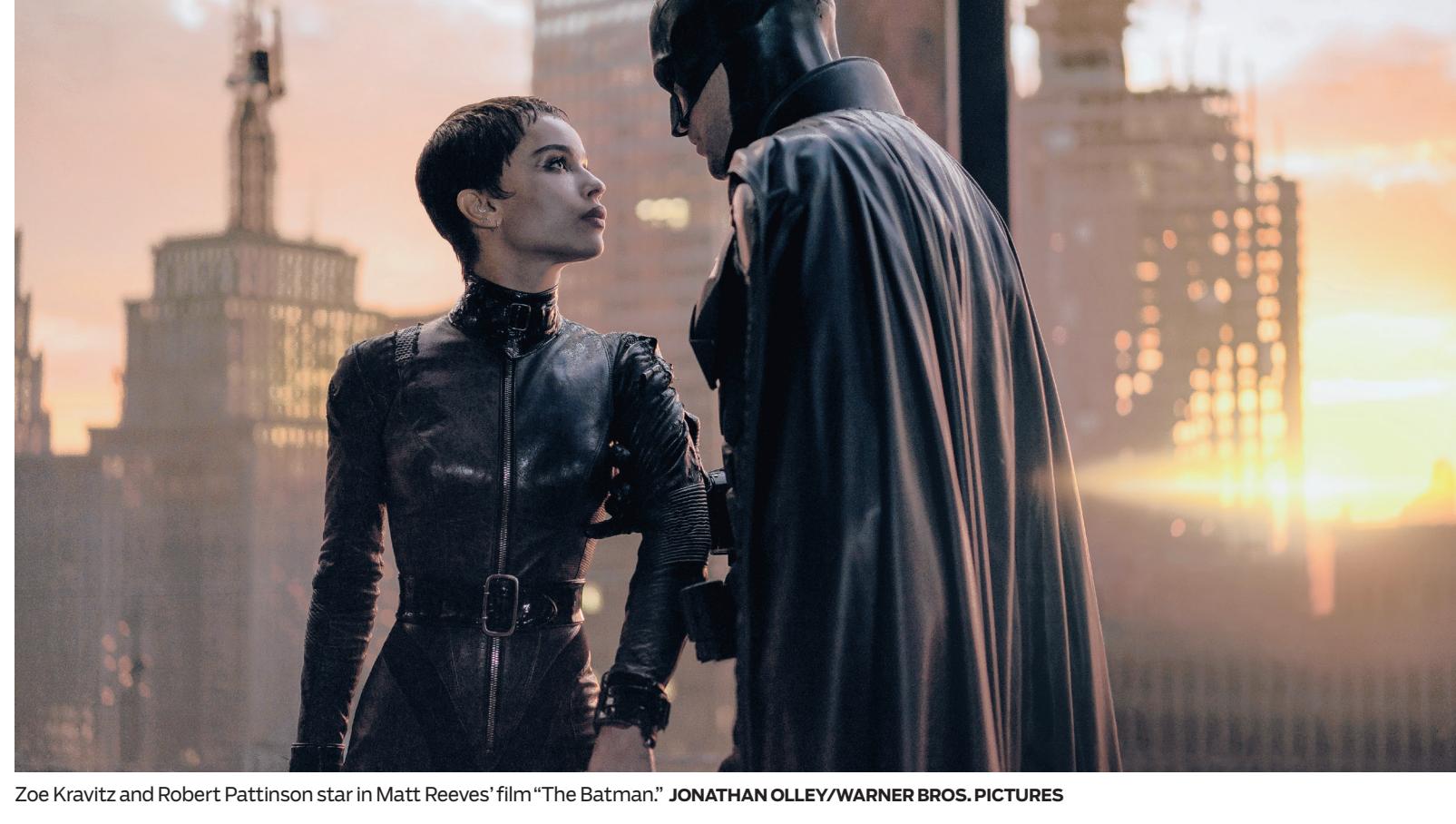
Just when you've had it with Gotham City, caped crusaders and the whole muck-up franchise, along comes a good Batman movie — easily the best since "The Dark Knight" 14 years and an entire film industry ago.

"The Batman" keeps the lights low and the dread high, as well as makes it rainy enough to earn the forecast "cloudy with a chance of 'Blade Runner.'" It runs a tick under three hours. Some will respond to that news with: *woof*. Many may find those hours a tough, deliberately paced night in movie jail, and (no surprise to the ardent fan base) the opposite of exuberant escapism.

But across several highly variable directors now, the pointy-eared DC Comics gold mine has pushed and stretched and drilled down into the rough stuff for its two-faced, psychologically riven protagonists and antagonists.

But there's real filmmaking here in "The Batman." Matt Reeves, the director and co-writer, has a serious interest in the tantalizing Batman/Catwoman dynamic.

His script, with co-writer Peter Craig, parcels out the action sequences carefully, and when they arrive, they're both visually lucid and excitingly reckless. Reeves works wonderfully with cinematographer Greig Fraser, most recently of "Dune." Fraser lights like a master, creating sinister



Zoe Kravitz and Robert Pattinson star in Matt Reeves' film "The Batman." JONATHAN OLLEY/WARNER BROS. PICTURES

allure out of otherworldly interiors and perpetually moist exteriors. Together — with all the design collaborators in this organic vision of urban hell, where the underworld is the only world — he and Reeves turn "The Batman" into a full-on gangster movie edging toward film noir.

All that atmosphere needs real actors, otherwise it's just pretty/ugly pictures on a screen. "The Batman" features a solemnly effective new Bruce Wayne/Batman courtesy of Robert Pattinson. He has a superb

counterpoint/frenemy/soul mate in Zoë Kravitz's Selina Kyle/Catwoman. In this outing, Selina works as a nightclub hostess (vaguely defined on purpose) in a mob hangout frequented by John Turturro's Falcone, who is outfitted by sunglasses handed down, apparently, from Sam Giancana.

"Oz" Cobblepot, aka The Penguin, reports to Falcone but isn't happy about the arrangement. He's played by an unrecognizable Colin Farrell, and it's one of the movie's limitations. His

subtly repulsive and nicely detailed performance is ready to rip, but fewer prosthetics and a little more of the actor's actual mug wouldn't hurt. Meanwhile, Andy Serkis as Wayne's guardian Alfred Pennyworth is lovely, a naturally civilized antidote to all the hellishness swirling around him.

Set around Halloween, "The Batman" introduces Pattinson muttering about how "two years of nights have turned me into a nocturnal animal." A serial killer known as

The Riddler (Paul Dano, heavily masked and in shadow for most of the film) stalks Gotham and targets an array of hypocritical authority figures. Here "The Batman" veers perilously near the grisly, nihilistic territory of David Fincher's "Seven," as this word-game enthusiast drives Commissioner James Gordon (Jeffrey Wright) to distraction, along with Gordon's crime-fighting associate with the cape.

All it takes for Gotham to give into pure chaos, is

simple: "fear, and a little focused violence," according to Dano's Riddler.

**Michael Phillips** is a Tribune critic. [mjphillips@chicagotribune.com](mailto:mjphillips@chicagotribune.com) Twitter @phillipstribune

**MPAA rating:** PG-13 (for strong violent and disturbing content, drug content, strong language and some suggestive material)

**Running time:** 2:56

**How to watch:** Now in theaters. Streaming on HBO Max mid-April.

## CELEBRITIES

### Rodrigo praises female artists at event

From news services

Olivia Rodrigo praised prior female songwriters and music artists for giving her strength while accepting Billboard's 2022 Woman of the Year award. The teen-actor-turned-pop-star was honored during the Billboard Women in Music Awards celebrating the achievements of top female performers and executives in the music industry on Wednesday in Inglewood, California. She spoke about being lucky for her career and thanked Sheryl Crow, who presented her with the honor.

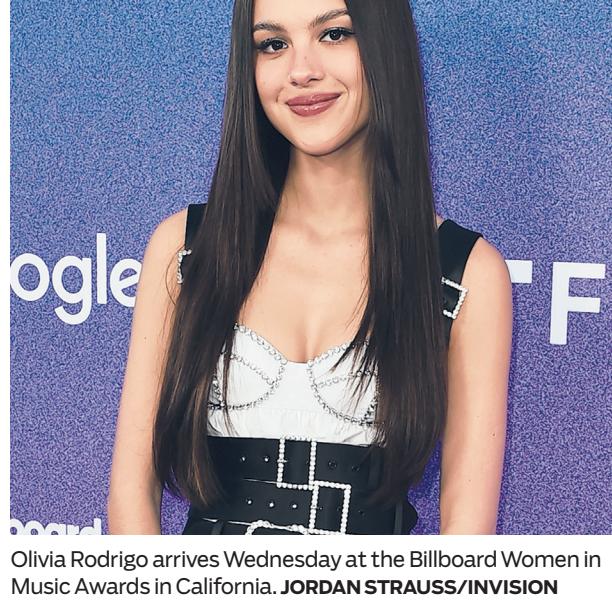
"Every woman here today is working to break down those barriers and change the narrative and support each other," said Rodrigo. During her acceptance speech, she talked about being "constantly moved" by young girls who write songs every day from their bedroom floors.

Rodrigo became 2021's biggest breakout star with her confessional debut album. "Sour" broke streaming records and led to all 11 tracks landing in the top 30 of the Billboard Hot 100 chart. She's the first female artist to achieve the feat.

After accepting the Icon Award, 10-time Grammy winner Bonnie Raitt said she wanted more equity and opportunity for women. She continued to say her "heart is heavy" for the people of Ukraine amid Russia's invasion.

H.E.R. received the impact award, Doja Cat snagged the powerhouse award, Karol G won the rule breaker award, Saweetie claimed the game changer award, Phoebe Bridgers took home the trailblazer award, and Summer Walker was honored with the chart breaker award.

**Manson sues Wood:** Rocker Marilyn Manson



Olivia Rodrigo arrives Wednesday at the Billboard Women in Music Awards in California. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION

sued his former fiancee, "Westworld" actor Evan Rachel Wood, on Wednesday over her allegations that he sexually and physically abused her during their relationship.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court alleges that Wood's allegations were fabricated, and that she and another woman named as defendant, Illma Gore, used false pretenses to convince other women to come forward with sexual abuse allegations and coached them on what to say about Manson, whose legal name is Brian Warner.

The lawsuit, which claims defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress, says Wood publicly cast Manson as a rapist and abuser — a malicious falsehood that has derailed Warner's successful music, TV, and film career."

Manson and Wood revealed they were a couple in 2007, and they were briefly engaged in 2010 before breaking up.

**Chmerkovskiy arrives in LA:** Maksim Chmerkovskiy, the "Dancing with

the Stars" pro who fled his native Ukraine amid Russia's invasion, arrived in Los Angeles Wednesday.

The dancer and choreographer hugged his wife, fellow "DWTS" veteran Peta Murgatroyd, after landing at Los Angeles International Airport in an emotional moment captured on camera by Entertainment Tonight.

Chmerkovskiy fled Ukraine on Monday, boarding a packed train to Poland. He said he arrived in Warsaw after a 23-hour trip that included the train stopping for a tire change near the border of Poland. He shared another update from a Polish airport on Wednesday, saying, "Talk to you from LA," as he boarded a plane.

**March 4 birthdays:** Actor Paula Prentiss is 84. Actor Ronn Moss is 70. Actor Kay Lenz is 69. Musician Emilio Estefan is 69. Actor Catherine O'Hara is 68. Actor Mykelty Williamson is 65. Actor Patricia Heaton is 64. Actor Steven Weber is 61. Drummer Jason Marsalis is 45. Actor Margo Harshman is 36. Actor Andrea Bowen is 32.

## ASK AMY

**By Amy Dickinson**

[askamy@amydickinson.com](mailto:askamy@amydickinson.com) Twitter @askingamy

### Woman exhausted by her humming habit

**Dear Amy:** I have a terrible habit and it's getting worse: I hum.

It's usually the same few notes over and over again. I try to silence myself, and I still hear the notes in my brain.

It seems to be most prevalent when I'm doing some mundane task like brushing my teeth or housework, but it's getting so I can't even walk the dog or work at my computer without incessant humming.

I recently went through a divorce, where my husband of 25 years left me for a much younger woman, and I'm living alone for the first time in a long time.

The breakup was a traumatic process, and the humming definitely started to be more persistent over the last couple of years.

Other than that, I'm a healthy, well-adjusted 62-year-old woman.

The humming is exhausting. Do you have any help or advice for me? Thank you.

— Constant Hummer

**Dear Constant Hummer:**

Researching your question, I came across an extensive forum on a British health information site, Patient.info — where dozens of people reported experiencing this condition, which might be triggered by stress (the recent events of your life certainly qualify as very stressful).

You should see your GP, report this symptom, and ask for a referral to a neuropsychiatrist, because this appears to be a neurological issue.

Review any medications you are taking, which might contribute to this problem.

You also might have success switching off the humming by learning meditation techniques.

Meditation can help to reset some behaviors when you learn to "breathe" your way out. It's worth a try.

**Dear Amy:** I am facing a dilemma with my roommate.

I am a senior in college and a member of a sports team (so are both of my roommates).

Throughout college, we have built these amazing friendships. Throughout the years, six of us teammates have become very close, but one of my roommates, "J," I would describe as less close than the others.

I now live with J, as well as one of my best friends, "Z."

J is a great roommate, but is definitely not as close as the rest of us are. J makes constant efforts to tag along with us, and her feelings are obviously hurt when the six of us besties do things without her.

We feel bad leaving her out, but also really enjoy doing things as a friend group. J is a genuine and extremely kind person, but she just doesn't socially fit in with the rest of us.

It feels like we should have the freedom to enjoy our last semester in college, but I also feel like a "mean girl" leaving her out.

Is there a balance between having fun as a friend group and being inclusive?

— Wondering Senior

**Dear Wondering:** Yes!

There is a balance between having fun and being inclusive, and the balance comes from choosing to be

inclusive.

Deliberately excluding someone who is not only a team member but is also your roommate? Yep, that's pretty mean.

Yes, it's super fun and easy to hang out with your besties, but the world is full of diversity and interest, and college is the perfect environment to spend time with people who don't fit exactly into your particular social mold.

Extending social hospitality toward someone who is "genuine and extremely kind" is good for your heart, good for your head and good for your reputation. What will make this worth it? When "J" thanks you at your 10th college reunion for being someone who was inclusive and kind.

**Dear Amy:** I disagree with your response to "Sympathy Deserved," who didn't feel sympathy for an anti-vaxxer who had died of COVID-19.

Being vaccinated is a responsibility to yourself, friends, family and to the world. I have no sympathy for anyone who refuses the vaccination and as a result suffers or dies from this virus or any other disease.

— Do Your Part

**Dear Do Your Part:** Many readers took issue with my stance that any death should be met with sympathy for the survivors.

I see this lack of compassion as yet another unfortunate COVID-19 side effect.

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# Pattinson views 'Batman' pressure as 'great'

Actor stars in film that takes franchise back to its origins

By Lindsey Bahr  
Associated Press

Robert Pattinson isn't morally opposed to superhero films. But he wasn't exactly seeking them out before "The Batman" came along, either.

The actor, 35, who seemed to emerge as a fully formed superstar in mega franchises such as "Harry Potter" and "Twilight," has for the past decade or so found himself chasing edgier fare, smaller movies with interesting directors and roles where he could stretch and disappear behind an archaic New England accent, as in "The Lighthouse," the unkempt beard of an explorer in "The Lost City of Z" or the shock of messily bleached hair that accompanies him on a never-ending chase in "Good Time," to name a few.

The strange thing is that it was "Good Time," a \$2 million movie, and its frenetic, freefall energy that convinced director Matt Reeves that Pattinson needed to be his Batman.

It was 2017, and Reeves, the man who brought freshness and grit to the last two "Planet of the Apes" films, had raised his hand to usher in a new iteration of the dark knight while Ben Affleck was in the process of hanging up his cape as the DC Comics character. Reeves started writing the movie for Pattinson, not having the faintest idea whether it would hold any interest.

Luckily, in Pattinson's mind, Batman preceded and existed outside of the "superhero craze." Growing up in England, he remembers watching the cartoon, the Adam West series (which he says was still running replays in the U.K. when he was a child in the 1990s) and coveting his costume and Happy Meal toys. Then there were the films.



Robert Pattinson stars as Bruce Wayne and the title DC Comics character in Matt Reeves' film "The Batman." JONATHAN OLLEY/WARNER BROS. PICTURES

"No other movie has been so thoroughly reinvented in so many different ways," Pattinson said. "Tonally, it's kind of (like) they're not part of the same series. It exists as a different kind of legacy."

The idea Reeves had was to go back to Batman's detective roots, crafting a 1970s style noir a la "Chinatown" or "The French Connection" meets classic "Warner Bros.' gangster pic" where Batman and Gordon hunt for a Zodiac-like killer who leaves riddles addressed to Batman at the crime scenes around Gotham.

"(Reeves) wanted to not reinvent the franchise, but in some ways, take it back to its origins, which is in mystery and detective work," said Jeffrey Wright, who plays Gordon. "He wanted to celebrate Batman as the world's greatest detective."

Reeves knew he couldn't

do a straight origin story — the public has seen Martha Wayne's scattered pearls more than enough times — so he decided to drop the audience in a place where Bruce Wayne has only been Batman for a little over a year.

"You have to fulfill what people love about Batman," Reeves said. "You're going to have a Batmobile chase, you're going to have spectacle, fights, he's going to come out of the darkness in the suit ... all of that is critical. But you have to do something that's fresh, too."

This hero version is more recluse than playboy, and he's not spending his precious few off-hours bodybuilding, either. Reeves said he saw him as a little out of control and a little "strung out," like an addict who goes out every night searching for street fights and sleeps during the day.

"We find him at a

place where he's not yet perfected himself, declaring himself an agent of vengeance," Reeves said.

To play opposite Batman, Zoe Kravitz was cast as Selina Kyle, the femme fatale with a traumatic past who is on her way to becoming Catwoman. The chemistry between Pattinson and Kravitz, who are longtime friends, was "immediately apparent," Reeves said.

"I think they're very attracted to each other, and they also push each other's buttons," Kravitz said. "Both of them are people who have been alone for a very long time ... it's scary for them to feel vulnerable or to care about somebody."

They also enlisted a slew of veteran actors to round out the corrupt world of Gotham, including John Turturro as Carmine Falcone, Paul Dano as Edward Nashton/The Riddler, Andy Serkis as

Alfred and a prosthetics-disguised Colin Farrell as Oz/The Penguin.

"I just had carte blanche to just experiment and play," said Farrell, who as a longtime Batman fan was even a little awestruck seeing Pattinson in "the suit" for the first time.

Production began in the U.K. in January 2020, and things were going well until the world shut down in March 2020. With about 25% of "The Batman" shot, Reeves even wondered if they'd get to finish. They resumed five months later, with several pauses because of COVID-19 cases, and finally wrapped in March 2021.

"I didn't realize how much work it had actually been," Pattinson said. "I looked like I had been living under a rock ... I hadn't literally seen the sun in about 18 months. I kind of only feel like I'm vaguely coming back to normal now."

Now after several release delays, the film finally comes to theaters worldwide March 4. The anticipation is always high for a Batman film, but "The Batman" is carrying more than the weight of a normal blockbuster on its shoulders, from the enormous box office pressures to how the audience is going to receive Pattinson and the new direction for the franchise, which includes plans for more movies and a spinoff series.

But Pattinson thinks the pressure "is great."

"Sometimes you can put so much effort into something and then no one even cares, so to know that there's a kind of ravenous kind of audience," Pattinson said, taking a beat and smiling before adding, "hopefully."

"People are going to have an opinion on whether or not you did it right," he said. "That's exciting."

## Come aboard for pirate's midlife crisis in 'Our Flag Means Death'

By Kate Feldman  
New York Daily News

Steede Bonnet's midlife crisis didn't involve a trophy wife or a red convertible. He became a pirate.

"Our Flag Means Death" — a 10-episode comedy series that recently premiered on HBO Max — follows real-life pirate Bonnet, the 1700s' so-called "Gentleman Pirate," a wealthy aristocrat in Barbados who ditches his family, buys a ship and hires his own crew of misfits. At some point, Bonnet draws the attention of Blackbeard.

It's a muddled story, much of it lost to time. For creator David Jenkins, that was part of the appeal: he got to fill in the blanks.

"It's an impossibly decadent midlife crisis," Jenkins said. "Someone who feels so stuck in their life that they do something unbelievable."

Born into a wealthy English family in Barbados, Bonnet decided to turn to piracy in the summer of 1717. He bought a sailing vessel, called it Revenge, and went on his plundering ways. After being arrested and charged with two acts of piracy, Bonnet was sentenced to death and hanged in 1718.

Jenkins compared "Our Flag Means Death" to "Breaking Bad," the story of high school chemistry teacher Walter White who started manufacturing meth only to blow it all up as a last resort.

The problem, though, is that Bonnet is remarkably bad at being a pirate.

"He thought, 'I'm going to just go be a criminal as a rumspringa or a little vacation,'" Jenkins said.

At its heart, Jenkins said, "Our Flag Means Death" is a workplace comedy, if you just swap out cubicles for a pirate ship. There's



Rhys Darby, left, and Nathan Foad in the comedy series "Our Flag Means Death." JAKE GILES NETTER/HBO MAX

an incompetent boss in Bonnet, played by New Zealand comedian Rhys Darby, employees who really should just find new jobs but are similarly too incompetent to leave, and a literal feeling of being adrift in an endless sea.

And then there's Blackbeard.

The notorious English pirate's involvement was more of a mystery, an unfathomable friendship between the most feared pirate on the seas and a relative newcomer searching for excitement. This iteration of Blackbeard, played by New Zealand filmmaker and actor Taika Waititi, is more intrigued than impressed, like watching a monkey at the zoo rather than a colleague to learn from.

"He's an idiot, but also there's something that he's doing that's subversive and revolutionary," Jenkins said. "There's something about this guy that Blackbeard sees. It's still fun for him. He still likes doing it."

At the same time, Bonnet's newfound passion is a cowardly

escape from his past, leaving a wife and kid at home to pursue his childish delights.

"He's a benign narcissist," Jenkins said. "You're trying to find a way to like him after what he did to his family, and you're rooting for a midlife crisis on some level, which is weird, but there's a price to pay for these things. Nothing goes unrewarded or unpunished."

Most of the time, you're laughing at Bonnet, not with him. Blackbeard is laughing, too.

But Bonnet believes he can be the best, as one must do to chase such foolhardy dreams.

For every gender equality or class issue "Our Flag Means Death" covers, there's a ridiculous character played by Leslie Jones or Fred Armisen to remind viewers that this is not a serious world. And Steede Bonnet is not a serious man.

"When you get bored," Jenkins joked, "you can just blow something up because you're working in the pirate genre."

## HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

### Aries (March 21-April 19):

You might find a stumbling block in your path today, but that doesn't mean you're going to trip and fall flat on your face. All you need to do is be that much more careful. Try to use any difficult experiences as a learning opportunity.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Things could feel rather off today, and you might have trouble figuring out why that is. Emotional conjunction could leave you feeling like there's something inexplicably but definitively wrong. If you can think of any old wounds pricking you, then try to acknowledge them and let them go.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20):

There might be a few hiccups or crossed swords when it comes to your friendships today, but that doesn't have to spell disaster for your social life. Expose a wolf in sheep's clothing. It would be better to realize that someone is actually playing for the other side now.

### Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Complex issues involving your work or reputation could ensnare you at the moment. Perhaps a boss doesn't seem like they're appreciative of some work you've done, or a project isn't getting the same reception you were hoping for. Hold off on any big reveals if possible!

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

### On March 4, 1789:

the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York.

### In 1917:

Republican Jeanette Rankin of Montana

### Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

The great wide world might feel more than a little intimidating today. While you're normally quite courageous, even you can have moments where you'd rather retreat into your shell. You can stick close to home — there's no need to conquer the world on a day like this.

### Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

You may want to clam up and keep yourself to yourself at this time. Your house could make you more conscious of your short comings than usual. Try not to project any perceived inadequacies into reality, because you're in danger of turning a molehill into a mountain. Just take a deep breath.

### Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

A particular person might prove to be a problem today. Others may expose wounds in order to heal them. You might have a sour experience with someone, but you can learn from this lesson so it doesn't happen again. Repairing the partnership or ending it is up to you!

### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

There's a chance you won't be at your best today, potentially feeling rundown. You can blame your daily routine for this. Your energy levels simply may not be able to meet the attempted output, which would leave you spinning in unhappy circles. Take things slowly.

### Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Your wallet might feel a bit lighter than you would like today, which may leave you feeling all too aware of what you lack rather than grateful for what you have. There's a good chance that whatever you purchase will turn out to be nowhere near as satisfying as you first thought.

### In 1994:

John Candy died in Durango, Mexico, at age 43.

### In 2015:

the Justice Department cleared Darren Wilson, a white former Ferguson, Missouri, police officer, in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, a Black 18-year-old, but also issued a scathing report calling for sweeping changes in city law enforcement practices.

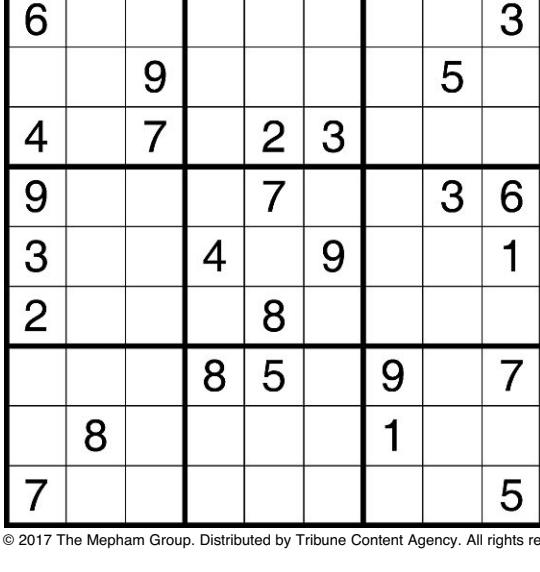
# BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](http://PlayJumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

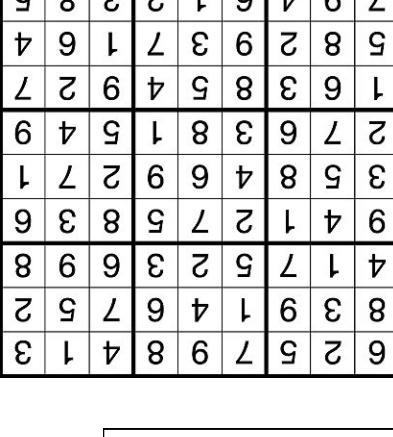
## SUDOKU



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Level: **1 2 3 4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).



## BOGGLE

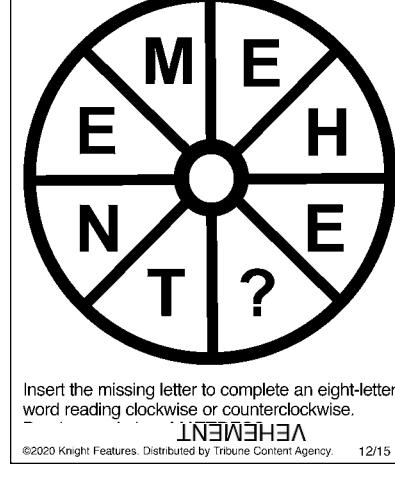


INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word lists, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE  
3 letters = 1 point  
4 letters = 2 points  
5 letters = 3 points  
6 letters = 4 points  
7 letters = 5 points  
8 letters = 6 points  
9+ letters = 15 points  
8 - 20 = Amateur  
0 - 10 = Try again

YOGA BOGGLE®  
RATING: ★★★★

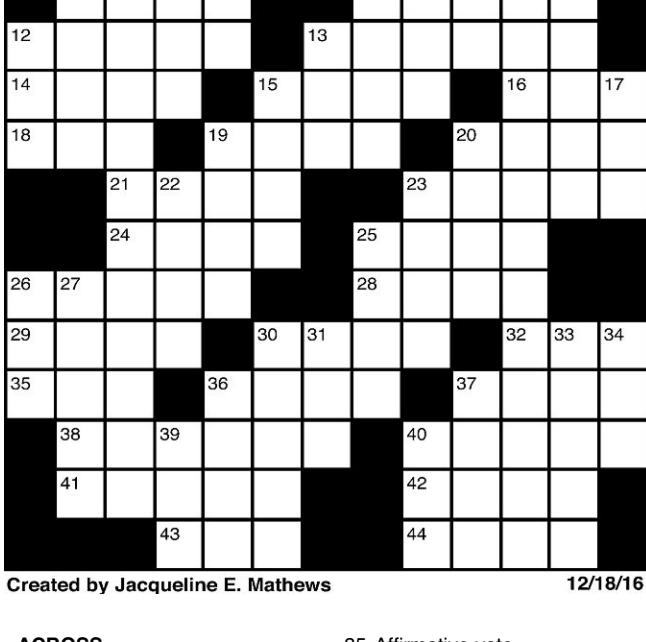
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



VEHEMENT  
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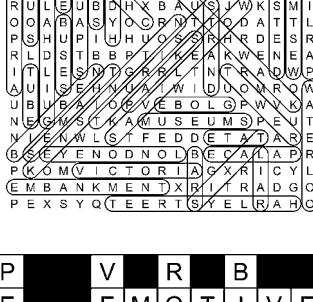
## TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

London town



## ACROSS

- 1 Donaldson and Waterston
- 5 "Men \_\_\_ Certain Age"
- 8 Cause of a stroke, often
- 9 Final season for "Quantum Leap"
- 12 Newton or Gretzky
- 13 "Fresh \_\_\_ Boat"
- 14 "The Sun \_\_\_ Rises"; film for Tyrone Power
- 15 "One \_\_\_ Hill"
- 16 "Grand \_\_\_ Opry"
- 18 "\_\_\_, Dear"
- 19 "The \_\_\_ Hunter"; Robert De Niro movie
- 20 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
- 21 "Dawn of the Planet of the \_\_\_"; Gary Oldman movie
- 23 "The \_\_\_ Budapest Hotel"; film for Ralph Fiennes
- 24 Farrow and Kirsner
- 25 Dinner for Mister Ed, perhaps
- 26 Mork or E.T.
- 28 "Dharma & \_\_\_"
- 29 Dharma where Alice worked
- 30 In a lazy way
- 32 Tax-deferred retirement acct.

- 35 Affirmative vote
- 36 "\_\_\_ dead people"; line from "The Sixth Sense"
- 37 Taxi alternative
- 38 Actor Don \_\_\_
- 40 Rattled
- 41 "\_\_\_ Park"
- 42 In a bad \_\_\_; cross
- 43 Foot digit
- 44 Curry and Cusack

## DOWN

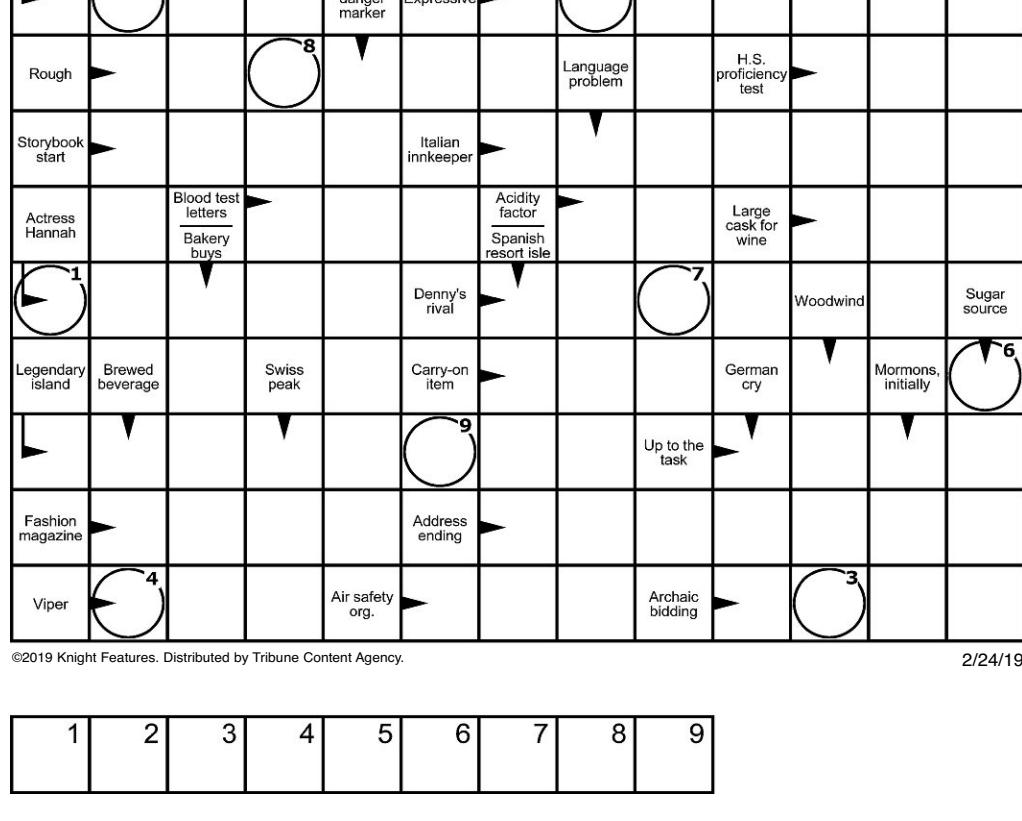
- 1 Weight revealer
- 2 Actress on "Mistresses"
- 3 Infectious viral disease, for short
- 4 Sault \_\_\_. Marie
- 5 Bid
- 6 Mayberry's Barney \_\_\_
- 7 Fore and \_\_\_
- 10 Portrayer of Aaron Hotchner on "Criminal Minds"
- 11 Hayes or Hunt
- 12 "Going My \_\_\_"; Bing Crosby movie
- 13 Miner's discovery
- 15 Actress Harper
- 17 "Witches of East \_\_\_"
- 19 Martin or Cain
- 20 "Laugh-In" regular \_\_\_ Johnson
- 22 Dessert choices
- 23 "\_\_\_ Unmarried"; sitcom for Jay Mohr
- 25 Make eyes at
- 26 "Judging \_\_\_"
- 27 Veggies in the onion family
- 30 "Orange \_\_\_ New Black"
- 31 \_\_\_ Moines, Iowa
- 33 Rex and Donna
- 34 Mr. Linkletter
- 36 "Leave \_\_\_ Beaver"
- 37 "Once \_\_\_ a Time"
- 39 "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me \_\_\_ of Here!"
- 40 Actress Thurman

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12/18/16

## ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

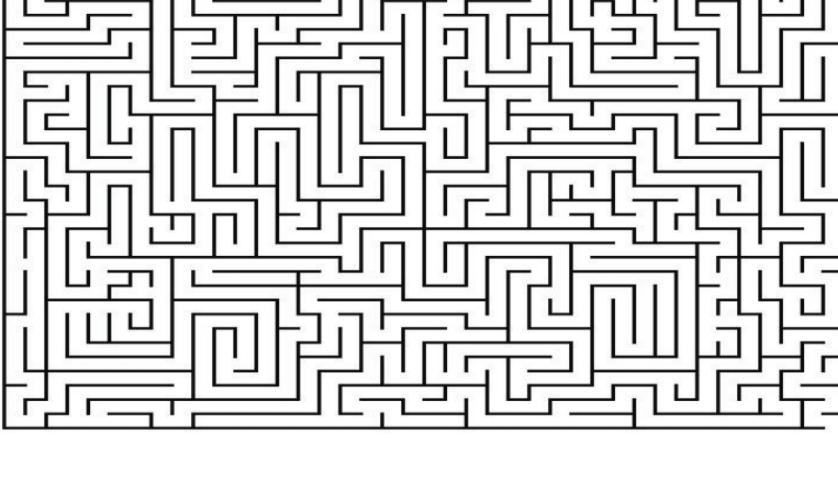


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2/24/19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

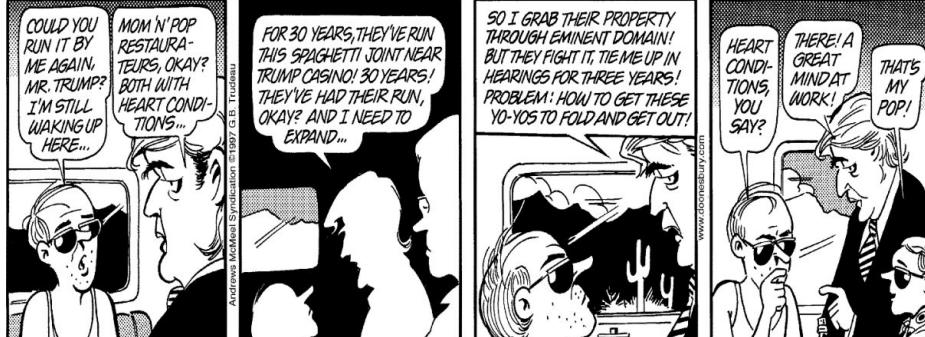
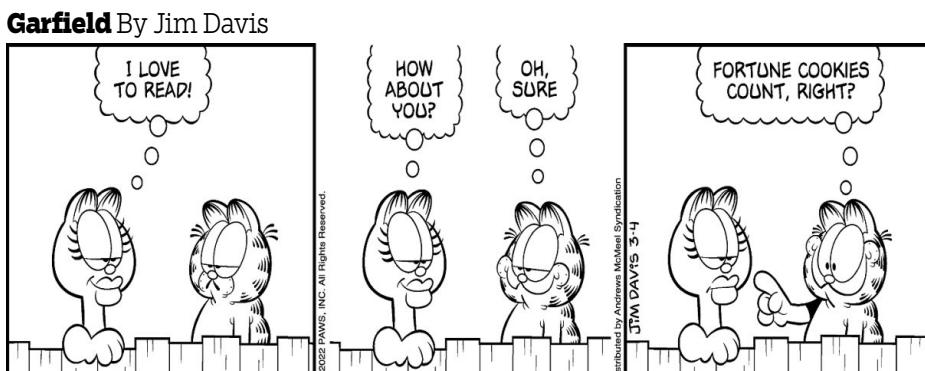
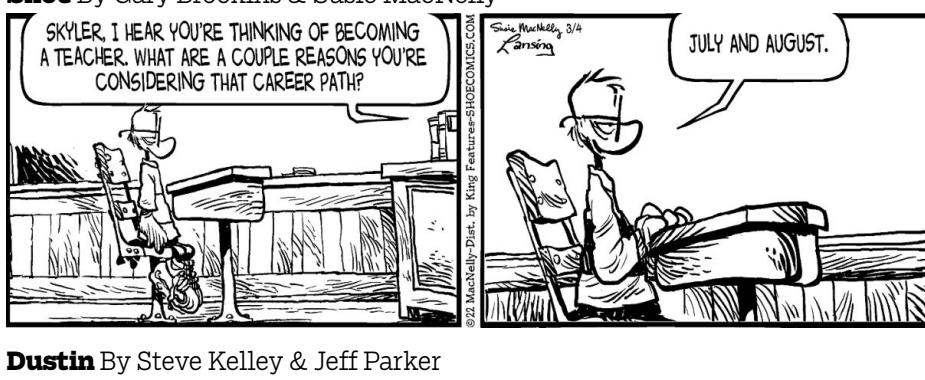
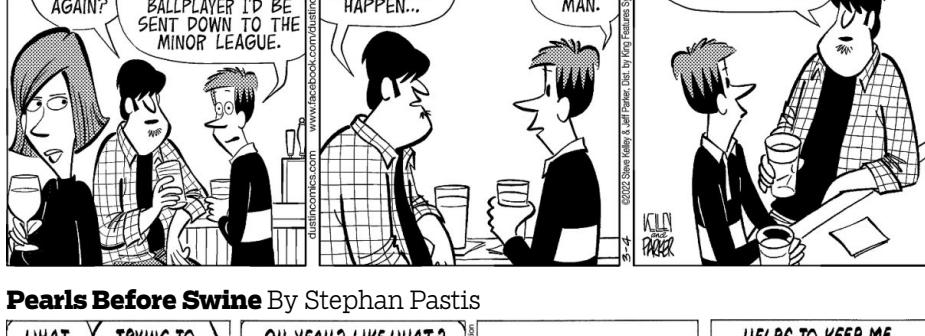
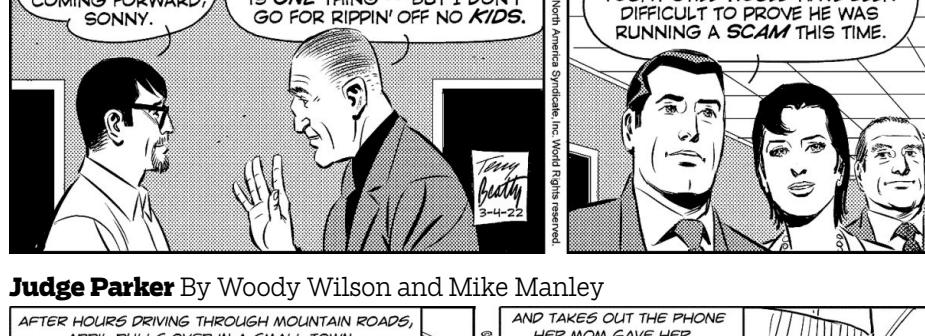
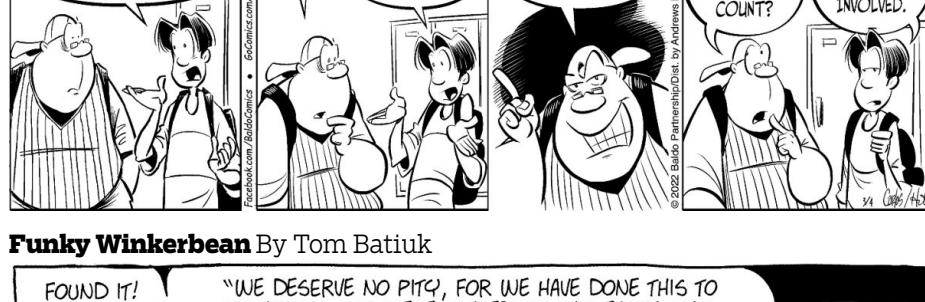
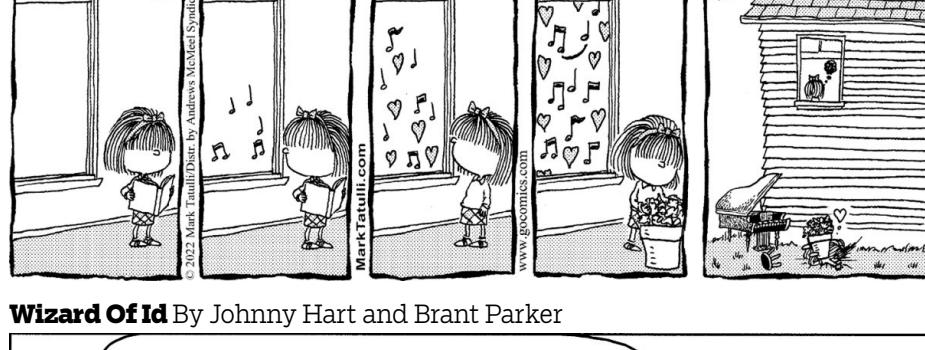
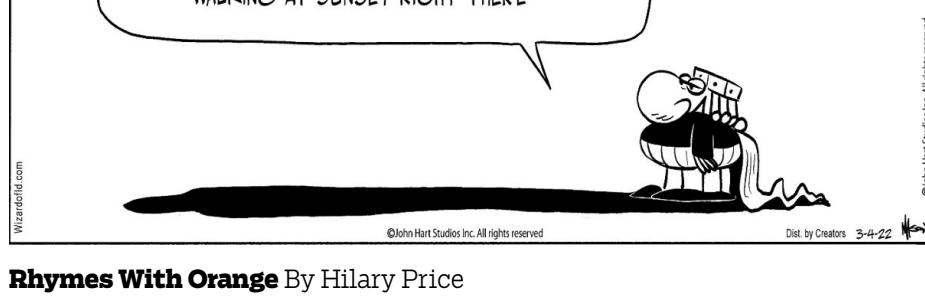
## KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES

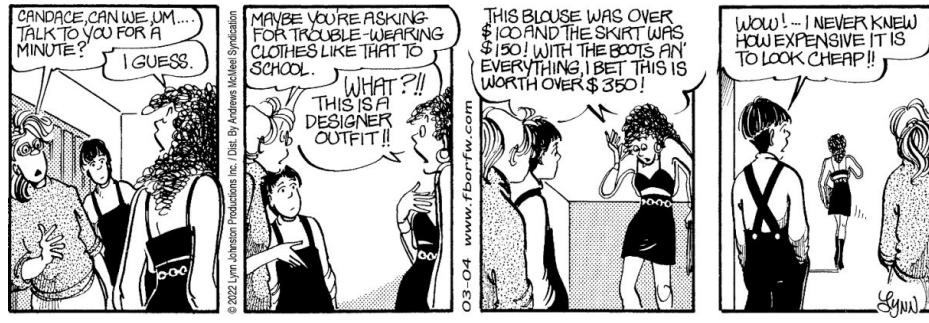
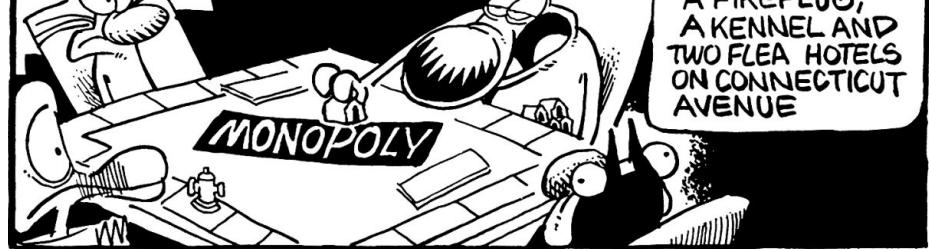


Find the seven differences between the two pictures.

ANSWER:



**Peanuts** By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

**For Better Or For Worse** By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

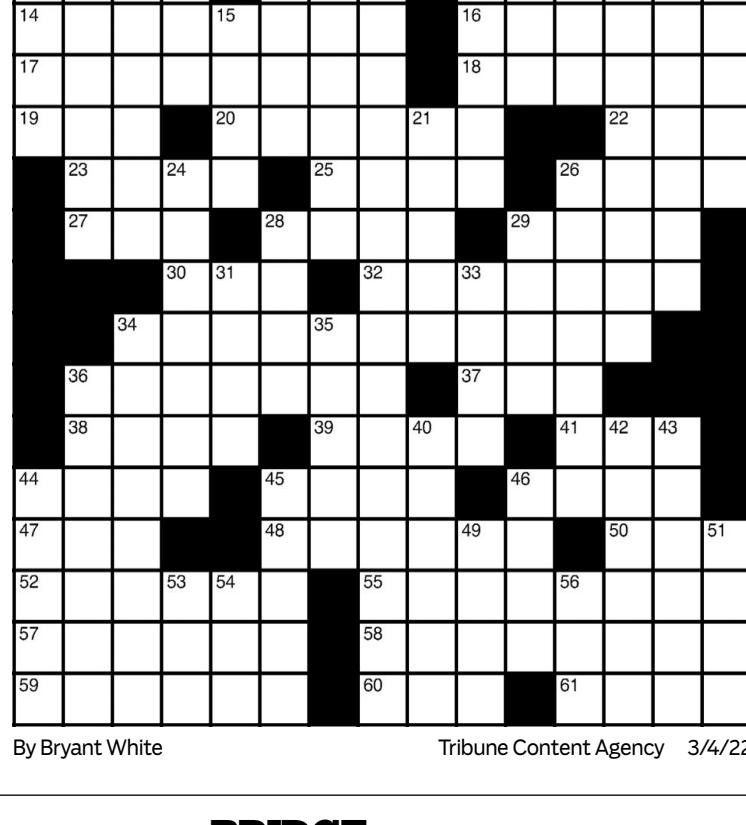
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**Across**

- 1 With 41-Across, "Cloud Shepherd" Dadaist  
 4 Penpoint Robertson  
 5 Branch headquarters?  
 6 Fish-and-chips sauce  
 7 Studiers of human ancestry  
 8 Viscounts' superiors  
 9 Winter bug  
 10 Be the right size  
 11 Panpipe relatives  
 12 Picture puzzles  
 13 Winter Palace figures  
 14 Hoosier  
 15 \*Buffet variety  
 16 Elbow grease  
 17 \*Throw for a loop  
 18 \*Traditional jack-o'-lantern sources in the British Isles  
 19 Worthlessness metaphor  
 20 \_\_ Weapon  
 21 1921 robot play  
 22 Surfers' find  
 23 Warring son of Zeus and Hera  
 24 \_\_ Scarlett  
 25 Only Canadian MLB city  
 26 Half-Betazoid sci-fi counselor  
 27 Draw to a close  
 28 Four quarters  
 29 Spanish inns  
 30 Incapacitating agent of pulp detective and sci-fi novels ... and a hint to solving this puzzle's starred clues  
 31 Illegal "Risky Business" business  
 32 NRC forerunner  
 33 Avatar of Vishnu  
 34 Blanket \_\_  
 35 See 1-Across  
 36 Copacetic  
 37 Nickname of NBA

**Down**

- 1 Wink  
 2 Beat the draft?  
 3 "Moonlight Sonata" opening movement, e.g.  
 4 Dorm pal  
 5 Ride-hitching fish  
 6 Evercity, USA  
 7 Door parts  
 8 Very low  
 9 paper  
 10 Skyrocket  
 11 Red-wrapped cheese  
 12 LAX tower service  
 13 Issa of "Awkward Black Girl"  
 14 Emeril catchword



By Bryant White

Tribune Content Agency 3/4/22

**BRIDGE**

BY STEVE BECKER

**Bidding quiz**

You are the dealer, both sides vulnerable.

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. [S] 6 [H] AK1095 [D] KQ8753 [C] 9
  2. [S] AK8 [H] Q652 [D] AJ9 [C] A85
  3. [S] 5 [H] 93 [D] QJ1085 [C] AKJ106
  4. [S] KJ97 [H] QJ4 [D] QJ7 [C] Q52
- \*\*\*

1. One heart. In general, a six-card suit is named before a five-card suit. But when the suits are adjacent in rank and the high-card content of the hand is close to a minimum, the higher-ranking suit is bid first -- even though it may be shorter. The purpose is to keep the bidding at a relatively low level with a hand of limited strength. Bidding diamonds first and hearts next would constitute a "reverse," indicating 17 points or more.

2. One club. Players who are not point-count conscious might open the bidding with one notrump. Admittedly, this 18-point hand looks very notrumpish, considering its flat distribution and scattered high-card strength, but it is far better to show the nature of your hand at your next turn.

Nowadays, an opening one-notrump bid promises at most 17 points. This upper limit is inflexible and cannot be varied without risking a calamity. It is better to open one club and then jump to two notrump to deliver the message more accurately. If partner passes one club, the odds are that there is no game in the hand.

3. One diamond. The fact that you have only 11 high-card points is not a good reason for passing. If you did pass, you

would have a hard time later convincing partner that you held a hand containing seven or eight potential tricks.

Once you decide to open, it is better to start with one diamond than one club, in line with the general rule of first bidding the higher-ranking of two equally long suits.

4. Pass. Though many 12 points hands are worth opening, this one, with no aces, one king and no distributional features, is not one of them. Furthermore, if you begin by bidding one club, a suit in which you don't even have four cards, you may wind up with a minus score when partner forces the bidding to a game that goes down, or you stop short of game after you decline an invitational bid by partner and then fail to make your partscore.

**Tomorrow:** Test your prowess.

**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Uncramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEIRI

RMAAO

THNISC

CUDITN



THE PASTOR HAD PREPARED A SERMON FOR THE CHURCH SERVICE AND WAS READY TO ---

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Yesterday's Jumbles: ERUPT WINCE DRAGON PIRATE

Answer: A judge will authorize officers to make arrests, search property, etc., when it's -- WARRANTED

**TODAY'S SUDOKU**Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

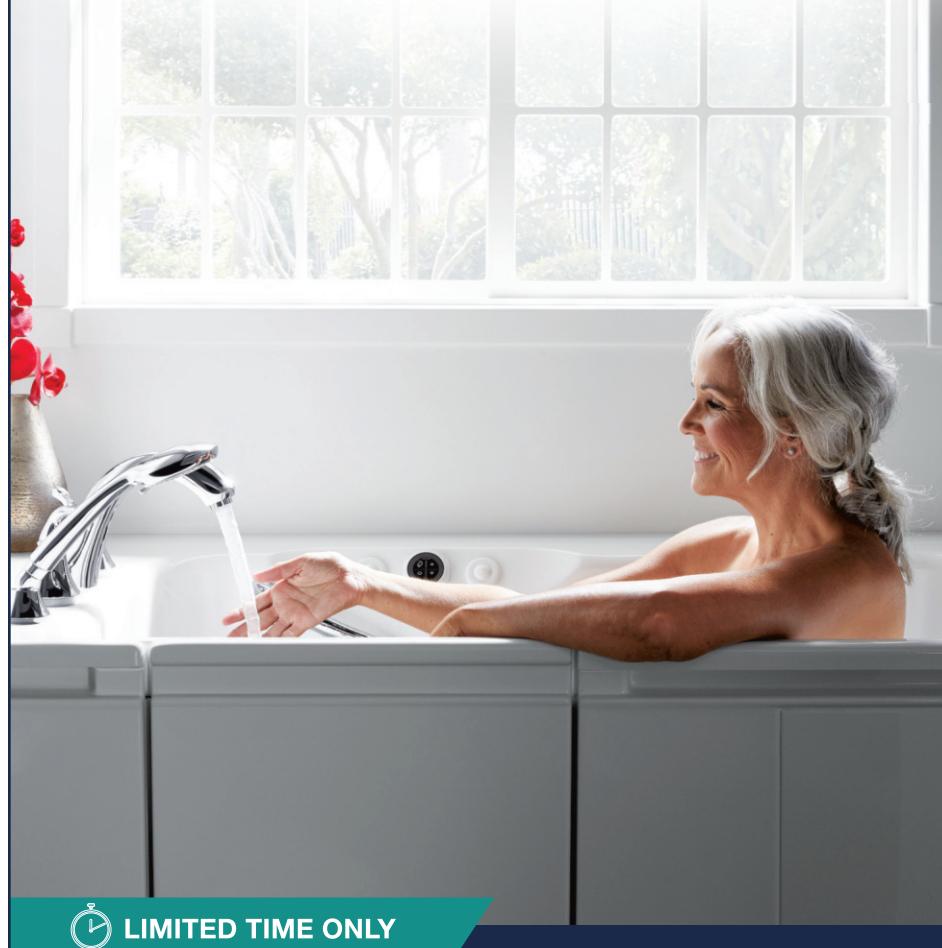
P	A	C	K	G	E	S	C	H	M	E	A
E	C	H	E	L	O	N	T	H	E	A	T
C	H	A	R	I	O	N	N	A	R	R	E
S	E	I	N	E	O	I	D	E	O	L	E
E	N	C	H	I	L	A	D	A	A	D	E
R	E	N	Y	L	A	D	A	D	A	D	E
B	E	L	L	T	O	N	E	N	E	N	E
O	R	E	C	R	A	F	T	E	D	C	O
B	R	A	G	H	G	U	S	R	I	G	D
S	H	O	O	T	I	T	O	N	G	M	A
S	A	D	D	E	N	R	E	A	C	T	S
C	L	I	P	T	H	W	A	R	P	A	S
E	R	E	I	G	A	N	I	L	A	N	A
E	R	E	C	T	F	C	A	S	T	I	R
W	O	R	K	S	T	H	E	W	H	O	L

P	A	C	K	G	E	S	C	H	M	E	A
E	C	H	E	L	O	N	T	H	E	A	T
C	H	A	R	I	O	N	N	A	R	R	E
S	E	I	N	E	O	I	D	E	O	L	E
E	N	C	H	I	L	A	D	A	D	D	E
R	E	N	Y	L	A	D	A	D	D	D	E
B	E	L	L	T	O	N	E	N	E	E	E
O	R	E	C	R	A	F	T	E	E	E	E
B	R	A	G	H	G	U	S	R	R	R	R
S	H	O	O	T	I	T	O	N	N	N	N
S	A	D	D	E	N	R	E	E	E	E	E
C	L	I	P	T	H	W	A	A	A	A	A
E	R	E	I	G	A	N	I	I	I	I	I
E	R	E	C	T	F	C	A	A	A	A	A
W	O	R	K	S	T	H	E	E	E	E	E

P	A	C	K	G	E	S	C	H	M	E	A
E	C	H	E	L	O	N	T	H	E	A	T
C	H	A	R	I	O	N	N	A	R	R	E
S	E	I	N	E	O	I	D	E	D	D	E
E	N	C	H	I	L	A	D	A	D	D	E
R	E	N	Y	L	A	D	A	D	D	D	E
B	E	L	L	T	O	N	E	E	E	E	E
O	R	E	C	R	A	F	T	E	E	E	E
B	R	A	G	H	G	U	S	R	R	R	R
S	H	O	O	T	I	T	O	N	N	N	N
S	A	D	D	E	N	R	E	E	E	E	E
C	L	I	P	T	H	W	A	E	E	E	E
E	R	E	I	G	A	N	I	I	I	I	I
E	R	E	C	T	F	C	A	A	A	A	A
W	O	R	K	S	T	H	E	E	E</td		

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# SPORTS

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## UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Taking home some hardware

Sophomore Mühl named Big East Defensive Player of the Year; Williams, Nelson-Ododa end up on the All-Big East First Team

**By Dom Amore**  
Hartford Courant

Nika Mühl seems to enjoy being a pest, and on Thursday, she was rewarded for it.

"There's a couple of things I like to do when I come into a game," Mühl said. "Raise the energy up, disrupt the [opponents'] offense, whatever the coach tells me my role is."

Mühl helped turn the UConn women's basketball season around when she was inserted into the starting lineup Jan. 12., was named

### Inside

A look at all of the Big East awards.  
**Page 4**

the 2021-22 Big East Defensive Player of the Year in the vote of conference coaches.

"Nika's comfortable being that 'role player' for us," coach Geno Auriemma said. "Some people, when they hear 'role player,' they think it's a negative. But it's interestingly that

**Turn to Awards, Page 4**



UConn's Nika Mühl looks to pass around the defense of Xavier's Shaila Beeler during a Feb. 18 game in Cincinnati. ISAAC FIELY/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

## UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Huskies still can't solve Bluejays

Late Wednesday's loss drops UConn to 0-5 against Creighton

**By Shreyas Laddha**  
Hartford Courant

OMAHA, Neb. — Sometimes a team has your number. For the UConn men, that team is Creighton.

The Huskies dropped to 0-5 against the Bluejays after losing a close one, 64-62, on Wednesday night at Chi Health Center.

With their fifth win against UConn, the Bluejays joined an exclusive group. Creighton, Fordham, UMass, New Hampshire, New York University, Syracuse and Worcester Polytechnic are the only teams to start 5-0 against the Huskies.

UConn also lost to the Bluejays on Feb. 1, 59-55. Like that one, this game was a completely winnable for the Huskies.

UConn started the game

**Turn to Huskies, Page 4**

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL



Bristol Central players celebrate their CCC final win over Northwest Catholic on Thursday in Enfield. PHOTOS BY JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

## 'It means a lot'

Bristol Central wins second straight CCC title behind UConn recruit Clingan's 45 points

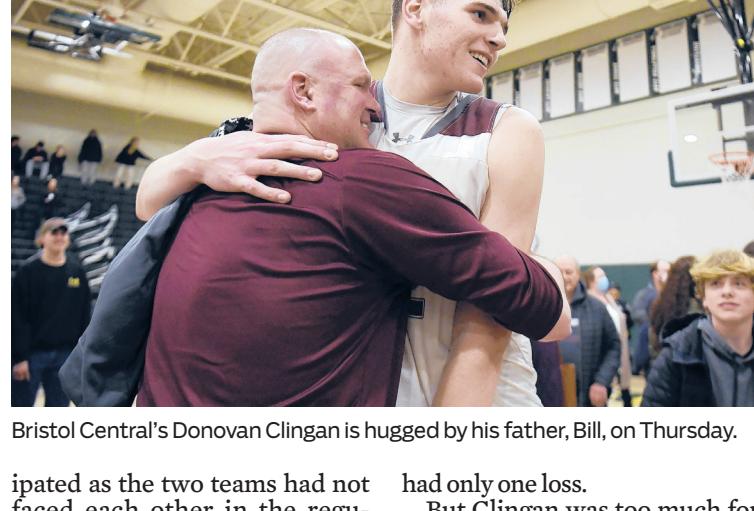
**By Lori Riley**  
Hartford Courant

ENFIELD — It seemed that every time Northwest Catholic crept a little closer to Bristol Central in the CCC boys basketball championship game Thursday night, Donovan Clingan would abruptly put an end to the surge.

In the fourth quarter, Clingan got the ball in the lane and took it to the basket. Four straight dunks and it was over — Clingan, the 7-foot-2 star heading to UConn, had 45 points and Bristol Central won its second straight CCC title, 63-56, over Northwest Catholic in front of 1,200 fans at Enfield High.

"It means a real lot to win this," said Clingan, who also had 28 rebounds and six blocks. "24-0 this year, that means a lot."

The matchup was highly antic-



Bristol Central's Donovan Clingan is hugged by his father, Bill, on Thursday.

ipated as the two teams had not faced each other in the regular season. Bristol Central was unbeaten and Northwest Catholic

had only one loss. But Clingan was too much for the Lions (22-2) to handle.

"I thought we fought hard,"

said Northwest senior guard Matt Curtis, who had 38 points. "It wasn't enough to get the job done. He's a lot to handle in the paint. He's obviously very big. Hopefully we get to see them again."

The two teams could potentially meet again in the Division II state championship game at Mohegan Sun, with Bristol Central (24-0) the top seed and Northwest at No. 2.

Bristol Central has now won 39 straight games. The Rams were 15-0 in a shortened season last year.

Coach Tim Barrette was still wearing his mask, despite the relaxing of the mask rules at games.

"I can't take my mask off because we haven't lost in two years with it," he said. "You don't change your socks in the middle of a World

**Turn to CCC, Page 6**

## UCONN ATHLETICS

## Policy for entry to events changed

Proof of vaccination no longer required, masks are optional

**By Shreyas Laddha**  
Hartford Courant

On Thursday, UConn announced a change in COVID-19 policy for UConn home games at Gampel Pavilion and XL Center.

Starting immediately, proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 tests is no longer required for entry.

Fans at home games are also no longer required to wear masks.

UConn Athletic Director Dave Benedict praised athletes and fans in the decision.

"On behalf of our student-athletes, coaches, and staff, I would like to thank all of our fans for your cooperation and good-natured, positive attitude towards our admission policy this season," he said. "Establishing a new policy midseason is never ideal, but UConn Nation met this challenge and continued to provide a boost to our student-athletes during competition. The environment related to COVID, particularly in our state, has showed vast improvement over the past month, and I'm looking forward to a strong finish by our winter sports programs."

The reasoning given for the change from UConn was told in this article.

"The change is based on consistently low COVID-19 positivity rates on our campuses and in the state of Connecticut, as well as high vaccination rates among UConn students and employees, new CDC guidance, and changes to state masking requirements," the article stated.

The UConn men's basketball team plays its last home game at Gampel Pavilion on Saturday against DePaul.



## Safety Tip of the Day

Does your toddler play with soft rubber or silicone toys? They should be cleaned by soaking them in warm water with some added baby shampoo or mild detergent or disinfectant.



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**SPORTS****UP NEXT**

**UConn MBB:** DePaul (Gampel), Saturday, 5 p.m.; Big East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, Thursday, time TBD; Big East Semifinal vs. TBD (if necessary), March 11, 6:30/9 p.m.

**UConn WBB:** Big East Quarterfinal vs. Providence/Georgetown, Saturday, noon; Big East Semifinal vs. TBD (if necessary), Sunday, 3 p.m.; Big East Final vs. TBD (if necessary), Monday, 8 p.m.

**Celtics:** Nets, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Hornets, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Pistons, March 11, 7:30 p.m.

**Knicks:** at Suns, Friday, 10 p.m.; at Clippers, Sunday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Monday, 10:30 p.m.

**Nets:** at Celtics, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Hornets, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at 76ers, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

**UConn hockey:** Vermont, Friday, 7 p.m.; Vermont, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Hockey East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, March 12, time TBA

**Bruins:** at Blue Jackets, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Kings, Monday, 7 p.m.; Chicago, Thursday, 7 p.m.

**Rangers:** Devils, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Jets, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Wild, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

**Wolf Pack:** Hershey, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Bridgeport, Sunday, 3 p.m.; at Lehigh Valley, March 12, 7 p.m.

**TV/RADIO AUTO RACING**

**4:30 p.m.:** NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Victoria's Voice Foundation 200, Qualifying, (Live) FS1

**6:30 p.m.:** NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series Alsco Uniforms 300, Qualifying, (Live) FS1

**9 p.m.:** NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Victoria's Voice Foundation 200, (Live) FS1

**BASEBALL**

**12 p.m.:** Shriners Hospital for Children College Classic: Baylor vs UCLA, (Live) MLB

**4 p.m.:** Shriners Hospital for Children College Classic: LSU vs Oklahoma, (Live) MLB

**7 p.m.:** California at Florida State, (Live) ACC

**8 p.m.:** Shriners Hospital for Children College Classic: Tennessee at Texas, (Live) MLB

**BASKETBALL**

**1 p.m.:** Women's College: SEC Tournament: TBA vs South Carolina, (Live) SEC

**6 p.m.:** Buffalo at Kent State, (Live) ESPNU

**6:30 p.m.:** Bowling Green at Toledo, (Live) CBSSN

**7 p.m.:** Women's College: SEC Tournament: TBA vs LSU, (Live) SEC

**7 p.m.:** Richmond at St. Bonaventure, (Live) ESPN2

**7:30 p.m.:** Grizzlies at Celtics, (Live) NBCSB

**7:30 p.m.:** Heat at Nets, (Live), YES

**7:30 p.m.:** Bucks at Bulls, (Live) ESPN

**8 p.m.:** OVC Tournament: Murray State vs TBA, (Live) ESPNU

**9:30 p.m.:** Women's College: SEC Tournament: TBA vs Tennessee, (Live) SEC

**10 p.m.:** Knicks at Suns, (Live) ESPN, MSG

**10:30 p.m.:** OVC Tournament: Belmont vs TBA, (Live) ESPNU

**11 p.m.:** Utah State at San Jose State, (Live) FS1

**GOLF**

**10 a.m.:** Puerto Rico Open, Second Round, (Live) GOLF

**2 p.m.:** Arnold Palmer Invitational, Second Round, (Live) GOLF

**6 p.m.:** Hoag Classic, First Round, (Live) GOLF

**11 p.m.:** HSBC Women's World Championship, Third Round, (Live) GOLF

**HOCKEY**

**7 p.m.:** Devils at Rangers, (Live), MSG

**7 p.m.:** College: Vermont at UConn, (Live), Radio: 97.9

**7 p.m.:** Penguins at Hurricanes, (Live) SPRTNET

**8:30 p.m.:** St. Cloud State at Minnesota-Duluth, (Live) CBSSN

**11 p.m.:** Golden Knights at Ducks, (Live) SPRTNET

**SOCER**

**3 p.m.:** 2022 CONCACAF Women's U-20

Championship, (Live) FSP

**6 p.m.:** 2022 CONCACAF Women's U-20

Championship, (Live) FSP



UCLA's Kyle Phillips (2) breaks the tackle of Stanford's Paulson Adebo during the second half Oct. 17, 2019, in Stanford, California. BEN MARGOT/AP

**PATRIOTS**

## Looking for air support

How Pats are scouting elite receivers at the NFL combine

By Andrew Callahan  
Boston Herald

INDIANAPOLIS — Bogged down by the stress of a midterm paper, UCLA wide receiver Kyle Phillips pushed himself away from a table inside his team's facility, unfolded his wiry 5-foot-11 frame as he stood up and headed into the hallway for refuge.

Instead, he found Bill Belichick.

Belichick, who was housing the Patriots at UCLA between back-to-back games during a 2020 West Coast road trip, walked with Bruins head coach Chip Kelly, who introduced them. Shaking off sudden shock, Phillips extended his hand, a few words and then quickly parted ways. While his paper remained unfinished behind him, Phillips raced ahead to tell his teammates about the encounter, the pull of football forever stronger than school.

A year later, the Patriots handed Phillips a test of their own at the East-West Shrine game, an annual showcase for projected late-round picks and occasional fringe prospects.

A scout pressed him on a few of UCLA's passing plays, not only his routes, but his teammates' responsibilities. Phillips says he aced it.

(No doubt it helped Kelly had installed a few of the Patriots' plays that season.)

Phillips isn't the only prospect the Pats have been testing lately. In fact, the Patriots have been busy interviewing several wide receivers this week, including several potential first-round picks. Arkansas star Treylon Burks, Alabama's Jameson Williams and Ohio State starter Chris Olave all said Wednesday they've met with team brass.

But with whom exactly?

Bill Belichick is not yet at the NFL combine, per a source, and neither is the core of the defensive staff. The Patriots' initial combine contingent consists primarily of front-office members, including consultant Eliot Wolf and multiple scouts. In the past, low-level offensive assistants have helped conduct interviews, including current running backs coach Vinnie Sunseri and assistant wide receivers coach Troy Brown.

Alabama wide receiver Slade Bolden, a late-round slot option like Phillips, mentioned meeting "player operations for the Patriots," likely director of player operations and engagement Chris Mattes, who also traveled to Indianapolis.

The diversity of the team's questions thus far has reflected a unique interview plan for each prospect. Take Nevada's Romeo Doubs, who says he's spoken exclusively with the Pats about his background.

"I think it was one of my best (interviews), being able to connect with those guys really well," said Doubs, who also met with the team at the Senior Bowl. "I spoke with them again during informal interviews, and I thought it was a great interview with them. Just checking up on me, getting to know me as a person."

Doubs played in a famously simplistic offense at Nevada, the Air Raid, which often tasks receivers with simply "finding grass." Naturally, there weren't as many Xs and Os for the Patriots to cover with Doubs, a lanky, 6-foot-2 speedster, who confessed there wasn't a single hard part of learning the system.

Then there's Olave and Williams, who shared their interviews were split between film work and personal questions. Williams is also recovering from a torn ACL he suffered in January, an injury that might help him fall into the Patriots' lap at 21st overall.

"Really it was just a formal meeting asking about me, watching film and just going over defenses and going over plays," he said. "Just really casual."

Olave said he answered "deeper questions," but wouldn't divulge any specifics. Smart move for a potential future Patriot.

"They asked me a lot about my background. ... It was a great meeting overall, watched a little bit of film, and I enjoyed it," he said.

Though the Patriots aren't visiting with every wideout, Penn State's Jahan Dotson, a popular mock-draft pick at No. 21 like Olave, said he's yet to interview with them. The same holds true for Virginia Tech's Tre Turner and Ole Miss' Donatario Drummond, both projected late-round picks.

In the second round, Kentucky's Wan'Dale Robinson represents another potential target. He's electric over the middle and after the catch, a 5-foot-9 water bug who skitters through traffic and zips past defenders. If the Patriots are truly interested in Robinson, they aren't disguising their intentions.

"That was my one formal interview," Robinson said. "(Bill Belichick) wasn't there, but it was a really good interview; just going over some film, different ways I can be used in the offense and things like that."

On the opposite end of the physical spectrum, Burks, at a rock-solid 6-foot-3 and 225 pounds, is another multi-dimensional option who rushed, received and even took Wildcat snaps in college. But he indicated his interview with the Patriots had him on edge; another test for another prospect hoping a passing grade means he'll soon be a top draft pick.

"It was really intense just knowing that you're in a meeting with the Patriots," Burks said. "Their organization is held to a high standard. I just went in there and took it on like a man."

**GIANTS**

## Barkley's future still murky even after release of Booker

By Pat Leonard  
New York Daily News

INDIANAPOLIS — One day after Joe Schoen left the door open to trading Saquon Barkley, the Giants released his backfield mate, Devontae Booker.

Cutting Booker cleared only \$2.125 million in cap space for 2022, not even half of the \$5 million saved by Kyle Rudolph's release earlier Wednesday.

Booker, 30, is a well-rounded and reliable back who performed admirably in Barkley's absence last season and wasn't terribly expensive.

Cutting him puts the Giants in the market for a possible mid-round running back in the NFL Draft, or on the bargain bin free agent market, where Schoen already brought Antonio Williams over from Buffalo on a futures deal.

But the bigger question is whether Booker's release means Barkley is suddenly safe.

It's possible that it does, purely due to the bottom line: Several sources believe a Barkley trade wouldn't be worth it for the Giants because they wouldn't recoup any fair value in a trade.

Three league sources, who were asked about the likely return in a Barkley trade, speculated the Giants might get a fifth-round pick if they ate some of Barkley's \$7.2 million salary.

Ask yourself: if the Giants want to give Daniel Jones every chance to succeed, would it be worth it to remove Barkley from their offense entirely for that little in return while also eating money?

**WNBA**

## Sun to be highlighted as part of ESPN's opening weekend

The WNBA's 26th regular season will be highlighted by 25 national broadcasts across ABC, ESPN, and ESPN2, the league announced on Thursday.

The broadcast schedule kicks off May 7 at 6 p.m. on ESPN when the New York Liberty host the Connecticut Sun, led by reigning WNBA MVP Jonquel Jones and fellow 2021 All-Stars DeWanna Bonner and Brionna Jones.

The league's opening weekend also includes an ESPN2 doubleheader on May 8. The Minnesota Lynx will host the Washington Mystics at 8 p.m. followed by the Las Vegas Aces and new coach Becky Hammon against the visiting Seattle Storm, featuring former UConn stars Sue Bird, Breanna Stewart and Gabby Williams at 10 p.m.

The Sun and the Phoenix Mercury — with former Husky greats Diana Taurasi, Tina Charles and Kia Nurse — are each scheduled to appear on ESPN networks eight times. In addition to Connecticut's opening weekend game in New York, the Sun will be featured on the ESPN networks during the regular season on May 31 (at Las Vegas, 10 p.m., ESPN2), June 22 (vs. New York, 7 p.m., ESPN2), July 3 (vs. Washington, 1 p.m., ESPN2), July 17 (vs. Las Vegas, 7 p.m., ABC), Aug. 4 (vs. Phoenix, 7 p.m., ABC), Aug. 7 (at Chicago, 1 p.m., ABC), and Aug. 14 (vs. Minnesota, 1 p.m., ABC).

The WNBA will partner with Google and Disney Networks for up to 52 games, beginning with the regular season and extending through the recently expanded postseason.

— Staff report

**KNICKS LATE WEDNESDAY**

## Harden shines in Philly home debut with 26

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA —

James Harden saw the fake beards dangling from chins, oversized cutouts of his head waving above outstretched arms and heard 76ers fans shouting from the stands that they loved him.

Harden knew from his first step on the court that his nearly 14-month, three-team journey — that he in large part orchestrated — brought him exactly where he wanted to play.

"I just wanted to come out there and show my love back," Harden said.

Much like the bushy beard that defines his image, Harden has grown on the 76ers.

Harden had a packed house in a frenzy from the moment he was introduced as "making his Philadelphia home debut," then flashed his MVP form with 26 points, nine assists and nine rebounds to lead the 76ers to a 123-108 win over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Joel Embiid had 27 points and 12 rebounds. Tyrese Maxey scored 25 points.

"We all just fit together," Embiid said.

But the night belonged to the Beard.

The Sixers moved to 3-0 with Harden in the lineup and his dynamic duo hookup with Embiid has suddenly stamped

the Sixers as legitimate contenders in the Eastern Conference.

"I feel like you can put me anywhere in the room and I can fit in," Harden said. "Here is no different. Just see what you have and try your best to fit in. Be the best James Harden I can be in every aspect."

Harden needed time to warm up to the new digs. His first points came with 5:32 left in the first quarter on, naturally, an and-1 conversion. He followed that with, yup, his step-back 3 to give him five fast points.

There was much more to showcase.

He scored 13 points in the second quarter and had fans shooting video on their phones.

Philly's hype for the new arrival rivaled the anticipated first games over the last 25 years of Terrell Owens (Eagles) and Bryce Harper (Phillies). The Wells Fargo Center was jammed with 21,333 fans and tickets for a top seat — not far off from rapper Meek Mill's court-side view — were sold for thousands on the secondary market.

Even director M. Night Shyamalan attended for the city's biggest happening on the sports scene.

"It felt like a playoff atmosphere," Embiid said. "I've given a lot of credit to Philly fans over the years and they've always come through, win or lose."

**CORONAVIRUS & SPORTS**

## Minor league baseball, hockey teams seeking COVID-19 relief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For Chief Operating Officer Tera Black, laying off 17 people in the Charlotte Checkers' front office of 25 felt like gutting a team.

</div

## SCOREBOARD

### NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	38	23	.623	—
Boston	37	27	.578	2½
Toronto	34	27	.557	4
Brooklyn	32	31	.508	7
New York	25	37	.403	13½
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	41	22	.651	—
Charlotte	31	33	.484	10½
Atlanta	29	32	.475	11
Washington	28	33	.459	12
Orlando	15	48	.238	26
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	39	23	.629	—
Milwaukee	38	25	.603	1½
Cleveland	36	26	.581	3
Indiana	22	42	.344	18
Detroit	15	47	.242	24

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	43	20	.683	—
Dallas	37	25	.597	5½
New Orleans	26	36	.419	16½
San Antonio	24	38	.387	18½
Houston	15	47	.242	27½
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	39	22	.639	—
Denver	36	26	.581	3½
Minnesota	34	29	.540	6
Portland	25	37	.403	14½
Oklahoma City	20	42	.323	19½
PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	50	12	.806	—
Golden State	43	19	.694	7
L.A. Clippers	33	31	.516	18
L.A. Lakers	27	34	.443	22½
Sacramento	23	41	.359	28

### THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago at Atlanta, late  
Detroit at Toronto, late  
Memphis at Boston, late  
Miami at Brooklyn, late  
Golden State at Dallas, late  
Sacramento at San Antonio, late  
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, late

### FRIDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Indiana at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.  
Orlando at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.  
Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.  
New York at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

### SATURDAY'S GAMES

Sacramento at Dallas, 5 p.m.  
San Antonio at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Orlando at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Miami, 8 p.m.  
Portland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Charlotte 119, Cleveland 98  
Indiana 122, Orlando 114 (OT)  
Philadelphia 123, New York 108  
New Orleans 125, Sacramento 95  
Milwaukee 120, Miami 119  
Utah 132, Houston 127, OT  
Oklahoma City 119, Denver 107  
Phoenix 120, Portland 90

### INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

FG PERCENTAGE	FG	FGA	PCT
Williams, BOS	225	311	.723
Gobert, UTA	269	379	.710
Allen, CLE	357	530	.674
Harrell, WAS	247	383	.645
McGee, PHO	229	356	.643
Ayton, PHO	298	464	.642
Poeltl, SA	310	498	.622
Capela, ATL	252	428	.589
Sabonis, IND	331	571	.580
Jokic, DEN	544	959	.567
Aldridge, BKN	244	441	.553
Antetokounmpo, MIL	519	956	.543
Valanciunas, NO	387	719	.538
Collins, ATL	325	605	.537
Davis, LAL	341	635	.537
Bridges, PHO	332	621	.535
Nurkic, POR	321	600	.535
Adebayo, MIA	274	516	.531
Towns, MIN	491	940	.522
Durant, BKN	379	729	.520
James, LAL	482	927	.520
Carter, ORL	296	573	.517
Gordon, DEN	322	623	.517
DeRozan, CHI	598	1160	.516
Tate, HOU	295	580	.509
Holiday, MIL	360	708	.508
Brinson, DAL	392	781	.502
Mobley, CLE	321	643	.499
Morant, MEM	504	1013	.498

through Wednesday

### TENNIS

#### WTA LYON OPEN

At Palais des Sports Gerland, Lyon, France, hardcourt outdoor

#### WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

Zhang Shuai (8), China, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 6-4, 6-4.

Vitalia Diatchenko, Russia, def.

Viktoria Golubic (3), Switzerland, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-4.

Caroline Garcia, France, def. Martina Trevisan, Italy, 6-4, 2-6, 5-3.

Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-2, 6-3.

Jasmine Paolini (5), Italy, def. Tamara Korpatsch, Germany, 6-1, 6-2.

#### WOMEN'S DOUBLES, QUARTERFINALS

Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Laura Siegemund, Germany, def. Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, and Julia Lohoff (2), Germany, 7-6(1), 7-6(5).

#### WOMEN'S DOUBLES, SEMIFINALS

Alicia Barnett and Olivia Nichols, Britain, def. Ulrike Eikeri, Norway, and Samanthia Murray Sharpen, Britain, 0-6, 7-6(5), 10-3.

#### WTB ABIERTO MONTERREY

At Club Sonoma, Monterrey, Mexico, hardcourt outdoor

#### WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

Wang Qiang, China, def. Mayar Sherif, Egypt, 6-0, 6-7(2), 6-3.

#### WOMEN'S DOUBLES, QUARTERFINALS

Han Xinyu, China, and Yana Sizikova, Russia, def. Elizane Lechemia, France, and Ingrid Neel (1), United States, 6-2, 7-5.

#### ODDS

### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### FRIDAY

#### FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG

Loyola Chicago 5½ Bradley

at ETSU 4½ Citadel

at Kent State 2 Buffalo

Ball State 2½ at Western Mich.

at Toledo 16 Bowling Green

at Saint Bonav. 4 Richmond

at Akron 14½ Central Mich.

at Miami (OH) 8½ Eastern Mich.

at Mercer 5½ Western Carolina

Ohio 9½ at Northern Ill.

at Drake 3½ Southern Illinois

Utah State 13 at San Jose State

### NHL

### FRIDAY

#### FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG

at Philadelphia 7 (219.5) Cleveland

at Washington Off (Off) Atlanta

at Detroit Off (Off) Indiana

at Chicago Off (Off) Milwaukee

at Toronto Off (Off) Orlando

at Okla. City Off (Off) New Orl.

at Denver 13½ (234) Houston

at Phoenix Off (Off) New York

### NHL

### FRIDAY

#### FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG

Leicester vs. Leed's, 7:30 a.m.

Aston Villa vs. Southampton, 10 a.m.

Newcastle vs. Brighton, 10 a.m.

Watford vs. Brentford, 10 a.m.

Wolverhampton vs. Crystal Palace, 10 a.m.

Liverpool vs. West Ham, 12:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY'S MATCHES

#### ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

GP W L OT PTS GF GA

Tampa Bay 52 35 11 6 76 182 146

Florida 53 35 13 5 75 218 161

Toronto 54 35 15 4 74 198 157

Boston 54 32 18 4 68 161 146

Detroit 54 24 24 6 54 160 194

Ottawa 52 19 28 5 43 137 166

Buffalo 55 17 30 8 42 148 196

METRO. 54 13 34 7 33 127 206

GP W L OT PTS GF GA

Carolina 53 37 11 5 79 185 126

NY. Rangers 54 34 1

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Saturday:** Big East  
quarterfinals, noon, FSI

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Saturday:** vs. DePaul (at  
Gampel), 5 p.m., FOX

# UCONN

COURANT.COM/SPORTS



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## Huskies

from Page 1

poorly on both sides and quickly went down big, trailing 34-24 at the half. The usual stellar Huskies defense struggled to contain Creighton on the offensive end, allowing them to shoot 15-for-29 (51.7%) from the field in the first half; this included a stretch where the Bluejays didn't score for over four minutes.

The Huskies made a valiant comeback in the second half but fell short.

UConn coach Dan Hurley felt his team was unprepared.

"Tough loss," he said. "Obviously, we knew coming in it would be a tough game to win. It's disappointing. Digging a hole on the road like that, to start the game, they just took it right to us."

The No. 18 Huskies (21-8, 12-6 Big East) currently sit at fourth in the conference. UConn has one game left, against DePaul, on Saturday at Gampel Pavilion. The game is Senior Night and an advanced sellout. After the DePaul game, the Huskies will head to Madison Square Garden to compete in the conference tournament which begins on Wednesday.

Let's look at some of the key numbers from Wednesday night:

### Creighton's 40 paint points

The Bluejays had no problem scoring on the Huskies in the paint in both halves. After scoring just two points in the first half, Creighton's Ryan Kalkbrenner scored 20 points on 9-for-12 shooting from the field. He primarily did it using a variety of post moves as the Huskies struggled to guard him. UConn's Adama Sanogo had trouble guarding Kalkbrenner as he used his quickness to get to his spots and get comfortable shots. Sanogo finished with four fouls.



UConn head coach Dan Hurley chats with players during a break in play against Creighton on Wednesday in Omaha, Nebraska. REBECCA S. GRATZ/AP

### Kalkbrenner and Arthur Kaluma combine for 37 points

The game plan for the Huskies was to limit Creighton's key players in Ryan Hawkins, Alex O'Connell and Trey Alexander. UConn limited the trio to 23 points on 9-for-21 shooting from the field, but in the process, Arthur Kaluma and Kalkbrenner had great nights. Kaluma did damage in the first half and then Kalkbrenner took over the second half.

Hurley felt that was what ultimately cost them the game.

"We went into this game really wanting to limit Hawkins, O'Connell and Alexander," he said. "We wanted to keep all of those guys under their average and we felt like we would be in great shape. Their starting four and five went for 37 in Kalkbrenner and Kaluma."

### Sanogo's 13 points on 6-for-16 shooting

Sanogo never really looked comfortable. He seemed to be forcing shots in the paint early as the

offense struggled in the first half. Creighton did a great job of rotating its defense and not letting Sanogo get inside post positioning. His offensive struggles ultimately hurt the Huskies as they play inside-out through Sanogo. UConn shot 11-for-33 (33%) in the first half and it led to them being down 10 at the half. Sanogo's foul trouble also didn't help as he seemed to play at irregular times because of it, which didn't allow him to get into a rhythm.

### Whaley and Jackson combine for 3-for-15 from the field

Before the game, Hurley said the defense Creighton played last game on Isaiah Whaley and Andre Jackson was disrespectful. Last time, Whaley made them pay. In this game, the Bluejays' game plan appeared to be to keep the ball away from Sanogo, R.J. Cole and Tyrese Martin as much as possible and force other players to shoot. Jackson and Whaley are primarily non-shooters, so they were left open and dared to shoot, which was a disaster for the Huskies.

### LATE WEDNESDAY: CREIGHTON 64, UCONN 62

UCONN	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Cole	35	9-20	0-0	2	4	2	20
Sanogo	37	6-16	1-2	16	0	4	13
Martin	25	5-7	0-2	5	0	5	11
Jackson	31	2-9	1-2	3	3	1	5
Whaley	31	1-6	0-0	2	0	0	3
Polley	25	2-3	0-0	1	0	3	6
Gaffney	11	2-4	0-0	1	0	2	4
Hawkins	5	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-27-66</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>62</b>	

Three-point goals: 6-22, 27.3% (Polley 2-3, Cole 2-7, Martin 1-1, Whaley 1-3, Gaffney 0-1, Hawkins 0-1, Jackson 0-6). FG pct.: 40.9% FT pct.: 40.0%

Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 6 (Cole, Sanogo, Martin, Jackson, Whaley, Gaffney). Blocks: 8 (Sanogo 6, Martin, Polley). Steals: 3 (Sanogo, Martin, Gaffney).

Créighton M FG FT RB A PF PT

Créighton	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Kalkbrenner	35	10-14	2-3	10	1	0	22
Kaluma	28	6-13	0-0	5	1	2	15
Hawkins	38	5-12	2-2	6	3	1	13
Alexander	38	3-6	2-2	2	3	1	8
O'Connell	34	1-3	0-2	9	4	0	2
Andronikashvili	22	1-5	0-1	2	1	4	2
Feazell	5	1-2	0-0	1	1	2	2
Davis	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-27-66</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>64</b>	

Three-point goals: 4-12, 33.3% (Kaluma 3-5, Hawkins 1-5, Kalkbrenner 0-1, O'Connell 0-1).

FG pct.: 49.1%. FT pct.: 60.0%. Team rebounds: 2.

Turnovers: 10 (Kaluma 2, Alexander 2, Team 2, Kalkbrenner, Hawkins, Andronikashvili, Feazell).

Blocks: 3 (Kaluma, Andronikashvili, Feazell).

Steals: 4 (Andronikashvili 3, Hawkins).

Officials: Clougherty, Simpson, Anderson. Att.: 17,126 at CHI Health Center Omaha, Omaha, Neb.

Playing two bigs who don't shoot well has made offense difficult at times for the Huskies this year and it was on full display against Creighton.

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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### Coach K's Cameron farewell finally at hand

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke's Mike Krzyzewski has spent more than four decades preparing seniors for managing the emotions that come with taking the court a final time at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

This week, the retiring Hall of Famer must do that for someone new: Himself.

"Little bit of thinking yesterday: 'This is your last game at Cameron,'" Krzyzewski said Thursday, two days before his fourth-ranked Blue Devils host North Carolina to close the regular season. "It's crazy, how did that happen? How is it here? ... I'll have to spend some time, have a meeting with me."

"Maybe a few tough talks about keeping my eyes on the road, so to speak."

The 75-year-old known to many as "Coach K" has spent the better part of a year deflecting questions about his looming retirement and trying to avoid being a distraction or creating additional pressure on his fourth-ranked

Blue Devils. The approach has worked, with a roster led by players with NBA futures securing the program's outright first Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title since 2006.

Now there are no more deflections, no more chances to push questions into the distance. The moment is here, with Krzyzewski down to one home game — fittingly against the rival Tar Heels — and no more than 10 games left in an impressive career.

As Krzyzewski said he told his staff Thursday morning: "Who would've ever thought? It's my Senior Day."

"I think I'm just going to overall — I'm talking to myself right now — just let it happen," Krzyzewski said. "And see what the hell happens. But try not to let it negatively influence anything for my players, because look, for them, it's their game. ... And I'm responsible for making sure that they have the best chance to win that game."

Krzyzewski's resume includes a college-coaching record 1,196 victories to go with five NCAA championships.

So much of that success originated in the 82-year-old campus arena, with its cramped confines (9,314 capacity) and rowdy students packed into bleachers practically on top of the court along the length of the sideline to create an intimidating and ear-ringing home-court advantage.

In all, Krzyzewski has a 572-75 record (.884) in 42 seasons of home games.

His Cameron farewell will be an emotional spectacle, adding another layer to a rivalry that annually commands the spotlight and features neighboring teams with a combined 11 NCAA championships.

The cheapest ticket on StubHub as of Thursday afternoon was \$3,250, with seats climbing north of \$10,000 — including some with asking prices of \$50,000 and, improbably, \$99,988 each. The school expects around 80 of Krzyzewski's former Duke players to attend, just one example of how his influence on the sport will continue long past his retirement.

## Awards

from Page 1

both last year and this year, things changed significantly when we put Nikka in the starting lineup. Obviously, she plays a pretty significant role, and she loves the defensive side of the ball. She gives us something no one else does."

In total, five UConn players were honored by the conference. Christyn Williams and Olivia Nelson-Ododa were All-Big East First Team selections, Caroline Ducharme and Azzi Fudd were named to the Big East All-Freshman Team, and Ducharme was also named to the All-Big East Second Team.

Mühl is the 11th Husky to be Big East Defensive Player of the Year and the second in a row following Nelson-Ododa last season.

The 5-foot-10 sophomore from Zagreb, Croatia, Mühl led a UConn defense that allowed only 55.4 points per game. The Huskies allowed only 50.8 in Big East play, the best in the conference.

Mühl averaged 2.2 steals per game, including six vs. Georgetown on Feb. 20 and five against St. John's on Feb. 25. UConn also turned over opponents 18 times per game to go 16-1 in the Big East en route to winning the conference's regular-season title.

"This is not just an individual award, this is a team award," said Mühl, who got the news in team meeting on Wednesday. "It just shows how good our defense is, and how good our defense can be."

The No. 1-seeded Huskies (22-5) will play either Providence or Georgetown in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament on Saturday at Mohegan Sun Arena. Mühl usually starts by harassing the other team's point guard. "You don't develop the tenacity that it takes," Auriemma said. "You either have it or you don't."

"Nika always has that intensity," Ducharme said, "and I think it starts with her being at the top of our defense, bringing the fight and not letting the other team breath, and it really translates over us."

Williams, a 5-foot-11 senior guard from Little Rock, Arkansas, was an all-conference first-team selection in both the AAC or Big East three years in a row. This season, she led UConn with 14.9 points per game (16.3 in conference play), shooting 50.5 percent

from the floor, including 42.3 percent on 3-pointers. She was a unanimous choice for the first team.

Nelson-Ododa, a 6-5 senior forward from Winder, Georgia, averaged 10.8 points and 7.9 rebounds per game in the conference, shooting 61.1 percent from the field, second in the Big East. She also averaged 4.0 assists and 1.6 blocks per game. She has been an all-conference pick three years in a row but is a first-timer for the first time.

Ducharme, a 6-2 guard, from Milton, Massachusetts, played a big role as UConn was beset with injuries this season, averaging 13.1 points and 3.9 rebounds in conference. She scored 28 against St. John's on Jan. 23 and had a game-winner at the buzzer against DePaul three days later.

Fudd, a 5-11 guard from Arlington, Virginia and the top recruit in the Class of 2021, missed much of the early season with a foot injury. In the 11 Big East games she played, she made a major impact, averaging 14.2 points and shooting 51.8 percent, including 45.0 on 3-pointers.

Villanova junior forward Maddie Siegrist was named the Big East Player of the Year after averaging 27.9 points per game. She helped the second-place Wildcats end UConn's 169-game conference winning streak on Feb. 6. DePaul's Aneesa Morrow was voted the conference's top freshman, averaging 23.5 points and 15.3 rebounds. She was named the Big East freshman of the week 13 times.

Villanova's Denise Dillon was Big East Coach of the Year, and Xavier's Ayanna Townsend was named scholar-athlete of the year.

Other conference award winners include Villanova sophomore forward Lior Garzon and Creighton sophomore forward Lauren Jensen, who shared the most improved player honors, sixth woman of the year Morgan Maly of Creighton and sportsmanship award winner Chloe Marotta of Marquette.

Joining Williams, Nelson-Ododa, Siegrist and Morrow on the 10-player All-Big East First Team were: Creighton sophomore forward Emma Ronsiek, DePaul senior guard Sonya Morris, Marquette graduate forward Lauren Van Kleunen, junior guard Leilani Correa of St. John's and Seton Hall junior guard Lauren Park-Lane and redshirt senior forward-center Sidney Crooks.

## COLLEGE ROUNDUP

### UConn hockey closes regular season with lots at stake

The UConn hockey team closes out the regular season with the start of a two-game Hockey East series against Vermont beginning on Friday at 7 p.m. followed by the finale on Saturday at 3 p.m. Both games are at the XL Center.

The Huskies (17-14-0 and 13-9-0) are tied for fifth in the Hockey East standings and can finish anywhere from second to sixth depending upon what happens in the final weekend of the regular season. With 13 wins and

# NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

## SHORTS

### MLB, players discuss next steps

Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem and chief union negotiator Bruce Meyer met for 1 1/2 hours Thursday and discussed the major issues in the stalled talks to reach a deal that would end Major League Baseball's lockout. Union general counsel Ian Penny and MLB Executive VP Morgan Sword also participated in the session. The players' association executive board held a conference call later Thursday. There was no known decision on the timing of the next negotiating session. Baseball's ninth work stoppage was in its 92nd day Thursday. Negotiations broke off Tuesday after the ninth straight day of meetings in Jupiter, Florida, and baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred announced that opening day on March 31 and the first two series for each team this season had been canceled. He said there would be insufficient training time for the March 31 openers. Negotiating teams then headed home. The sides had made progress during 16 1/2 hours of bargaining that ended at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday but were still far apart on areas that include the key economic components of the luxury tax, pre-arbitration bonus pool and minimum salaries. The sides expressed anger at each other's proposals when talks resumed later that day.

### Boeheim: Plan set for my retirement



Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said Wednesday on a sports radio call-in show that there's a plan in place for when he steps down. "There's a plan," Boeheim told ESPN Radio in Syracuse. "I'm just telling you there's a plan." Boeheim didn't reveal any details of the arrangement because that could have an effect on recruiting. He said the university will decide when to make it public and he expects to have input on the selection of his replacement. The 77-year-old Boeheim, the second-winningest coach in Division I history with 997 victories, behind only Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, is nearing the end of his 46th season at the helm. He has said repeatedly that he intends to coach next season with a handful of freshmen enrolling. "I think if I said I'm quitting now, after giving my word to these players, to me it would look like, 'Oh, they've had a bad year, so he's just going to quit,'" Boeheim said. "... At the end of the day, I can promise you that I'm trying to leave this program in the best position that it can be in when I leave. I think we will be able to do that."

### NFL suspends all COVID protocols

The NFL halted all aspects of its COVID-19 protocols, citing recent trends showing that the spread of the coronavirus is declining. In an agreement with the players' association, the league sent a memo to the 32 teams Thursday in which it mentioned "encouraging trends regarding the prevalence and severity of COVID-19, the evolving guidance from the CDC, changes to state law and the counsel of our respective experts" as reasons for the move. Should the NFL find reasons to reimpose any aspects of the protocols, it will do so in conjunction with the players' association. Teams are required to remain in compliance with state and local laws and may continue "reasonable measures to protect their staff and players," said the memo obtained by The AP. Regardless of vaccination status, players and staff no longer must wear face coverings at team facilities, though each club can require it individually. Social distancing signs no longer are required as well. The league eliminated mandatory testing of players and staff, regardless of vaccination status. Testing will occur only when clinically indicated. The NHL previously dropped virus testing for individuals without symptoms and other distancing protocols. The NBA hasn't altered protocols. —AP



Fans watch as MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred announces Tuesday that opening day had been canceled. WILFREDO LEE/AP

## BASEBALL COMMENTARY

# Owners own this mess

**Only way to fix it: Get deal done, make game better**

**By Tim Dahlberg**

Associated Press

The talks are over, at least for now. Opening day is gone, too, and now we're forced to wait to see if we get any baseball at all.

If there was any good news coming out of baseball's labor talks in Florida it was this: At least now we know who to blame.

Here's a hint: It's not anyone wearing a uniform.

No, baseball players aren't blameless in any of this, far from it. They keep wanting more when they historically have always had the best deals in all of professional sports.

But this one is mostly on the 30 miserable, conniving owners who have always cared more about squeezing every last dollar out of the game than they ever cared about the game itself.

Once again, they've stolen from baseball fans. This time they made off with opening day and at least six games out of the regular season.

For what purpose, it's hard to figure out. Yes, the players' union can be demanding and is prone to asking for far more than owners are willing to deliver.

But the issues weren't so complex they couldn't be solved with some more time at the table. And the truth is, there was nothing on that table that would tilt the playing field so badly that franchises around the country would start bleeding money.

It's almost like the owners didn't want the season to start on time — maybe they really didn't. Outside of opening day, early-season games aren't generally moneymakers for owners despite Commissioner Rob Manfred's contention that missing the games would be a tragedy.

For weeks, owners refused to negotiate at all. When they finally did, it was with warnings of missed games and salaries and, finally, an ultimatum that opening day would be scratched if players didn't agree to a last and best offer.

Afterward, they cried poor, as if anyone believed them.

"The last five years have been very difficult years from a revenue perspective for the industry given the pandemic," Manfred said.

They've been difficult for baseball fans, too, though that's another story. The fact that fans are fleeing the game isn't all economic, but they've certainly grown weary of paying \$75 for a mediocre seat, \$25 for parking and \$18 plus tip every time the beer guy comes down the aisle.

No one should feel sorry for baseball players, either, who make an average of \$4 million a year to play a child's game. Indeed, the argument advanced by the union that they're bargaining for a system where all teams are competitive is simply a smokescreen for higher payrolls on smaller market clubs.

But salaries that once seemed to have no ceiling in the past have slipped a bit in the last few years — a trend players want reversed. That's largely because front offices now use analytics to figure out value and

teams know that — except for a few superstars — players are pretty much exchangeable.

No reason to pay a veteran reliever \$15 million a year when teams can bring in young fireballers at a fraction of the price to replace them without skipping a beat.

What neither side seems to realize is that fans don't really care. Not about revenue sharing, not about how many players get to go to arbitration and not about whether each club has a personal chef in the clubhouse.

They just want to go to the ballpark, drink their \$18 beer and see some baseball.

Unfortunately, there's nothing in the negotiations that will make that baseball any better. While the players and owners argue about economics, the game is dying a slow death because it's simply becoming unwatchable.

So here's a thought. Return to the table and figure out what to do about arbitration years and luxury taxes. Go ahead and expand the playoffs, put ads on uniforms and adopt the DH in the National League because those are done deals already anyway.

Then stay at the table. Figure out what to do about the shift. Put a limit on the number of pitchers in any game. Come up with a way to speed up the game and reintroduce the strategies — the bunt, hit-and-run and sacrifice — that once made it so interesting.

Do something for the fans for once instead of chasing the last dollar they have in their pockets.

Or, in the alternative, just don't play at all.

## WAR IN UKRAINE PARALYMPICS

### Athletes speak up, force ban of Russia

**By Eddie Pells | Associated Press**

Athletes around the world cheered when leaders of the Paralympics booted Russia from the Games. The move, in many eyes, marked the high point of a growing movement by the people who actually deliver the show to find a greater voice in the Olympic world.

"It's because of the athletes," said Ukrainian skeleton athlete Vladyslav Heraskevych, who has been living about 100 miles from Ukraine's capital of Kyiv, fearful of an attack by Russian troops who invaded the country.

The tipping point to the rapid turn of events Thursday was "a very, very volatile environment" in the athletes village in Beijing at the Paralympics, according to the head of that organization.

The International Paralympic Committee was faced with the very real possibility that athletes might simply pick up and go home before their Games start Friday. To prevent that, it made an abrupt about-face and chose to ban the Russian and Belarusian Paralympic teams that previously were being allowed to compete under a neutral flag.

"We did not think that entire delegations, or even teams within delegations, will withdraw, will boycott, will not participate," IPC president Andrew Parsons said.

Rob Koehler, the head of the advocacy group Global Athlete, called the moment "a clear message to every single athlete about how valuable and important their voices are for change."

Early in the week, a cadre of Ukrainian athletes aligned with Koehler's group to put out a statement condemning Russia's invasion and asking for an immediate ban of Russian and Belarusian athletes from the Olympics and Paralympics. The list of signers to this letter grew by the hour. It encompassed several hundred athletes, when adding the individuals who put their names on the letter to those who were members of the federations and athlete committees that signed on, as well.

It could have been more, but as the letter poignantly stated, "it has been a challenge to speak with all athletes from Ukraine as they are seeking safety in bomb shelters."

The International Olympic Committee signaled that it heard the message. It urged all federations to prohibit athletes from those countries from competing. Many took heed of that advice — including ice skating, skiing, soccer, hockey, basketball and others.

But the Paralympics didn't do a ban, explaining it would never hold up in court because of the rulebook. The IOC, with the Olympics in the rearview mirror, also passed on a ban itself.

That decision cast a different light on a New York Times report that China had specifically asked Russia to hold off on any invasion until the Olympics were over. The countries are allies — their presidents held a summit the day after the opening ceremony and declared their strategic partnership had "no limits." It was no shock that China didn't want the start of a war to tarnish its massive sports spectacle.

But the Paralympics bring another 600-plus athletes to Beijing to compete over 10 days. It's one of the largest gathering of international athletes this side of the Olympics.

The removal of Russia's flag, without the removal of the country's athletes, Parsons said, the "harshest possible punishment we can hand down within our constitution and the current IPC rules."

Those rules, however, took a backseat to reality.

The Latvian and South Korean curling teams said they wouldn't take the ice against Russia for an early round match. Other athletes were considering leaving. The IPC could no longer ignore that possibility.

"It is abundantly clear that athletes forced this decision, not sport leaders," said Ali Jawad, a four-time Paralympian who is on the board of Global Athlete.

The thought of walking away is the most drastic possible option for athletes who spend their lives training for a day or two of glory at the biggest spectacle in sports. For decades, none have willingly made that choice.

The thought of competing in China, with its record of human-rights abuses, was stomach-turning to many Olympians. But they all chose to go, in large part because they knew there was no groundswell that would follow them out the door.

Athletes posed a bigger threat than that at the Paralympics. It was the latest, most striking show of power in a movement that has included victories in the fight over Olympic rules on marketing and demonstrations, a flap over women wearing bikini bottoms for beach handball, pay for women's soccer players and more.

"The list goes on and on, and it shows that when athletes say 'Things are changing, and they're changing today,' that it really can happen," Koehler said.

Russia is likely to take this case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. CAS, the IOC, World Athletics, the World Anti-Doping Agency and dozens more in this long "alphabet soup" of sports organizations have a long history of contorting the rulebooks of international sports to make them say whatever they want.

One example: While, before the war broke out, Russia remained largely eligible in most sports despite eight years of rule-breaking and cover-ups, it was still considered a rogue state in track and field.

It's also, for the time being, persona non grata at the Paralympics. The credit for that goes to a growing group of athletes who wouldn't accept any other option.

